

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

Alleged exploitation of Bangladeshis as cheap labor for profit exposed

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Mohammad Zeaur Rahman Dalu, a

man who was sentenced last week to a prison term of four months of time already served for his role in a CW-1 scam, has filed a lawsuit in federal

court and exposed those allegedly engaged in a long-standing practice of exploiting Bangladeshis as cheap labor for profit.

Dalu is suing his former employer, MD Nurul Islam Bhuiyan, owner of Island Protection Services, for violations of the Fair Labor Standards

Act, violations of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act, violations of Racketeer Influenced

See **ALLEGED** on **Page 4**

First public transit route activated



By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

ERWIN ENCINARES

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres along with Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, Chief Justice Alexandro Castro, and members of the Legislature cut the ribbon before the activation of the first-ever public transportation route from Paseo de Marianas to Northern Mariana College.

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority yesterday activated their first-ever public transportation route at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

COTA yesterday revealed the activation of their first-ever bus route, which starts at the Northern Marianas College and ends at Paseo de Marian-

as, Garapan. The route, known as the "Flame Tree Line A1" is open from 6:30am to 7pm for weekdays and 6:30am to 4pm
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CHCC ON KCHC GOING INDEPENDENT

Muña: We wish them the best

By **BEA CABRERA**
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CORRESPONDENT

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muña said Kagman Community Health Center's announcement last week



Muña

that it has decided to become independent and separate itself from CHCC doesn't really upset her.

"We are not an-
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Page 4

'Economic viability key to reducing deficit'

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said the CNMI's economy is key to whit-

tling down the government's \$144.7-million debt as the

governor last week announced its \$258.1-million proposed budget for fiscal year 2019.

» **From \$251M in 2005, public debt down to \$144M in 2015**

Citing a 2017 Government Accountability Office report, a statement from the Torres ad-
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INSIDE



LOCAL

The guests of Resorts World Manila's familiarization tour were given a taste of Taiwan's beauty during the final port stop aboard the SuperStar Virgo.

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ASIA

North Korea's government has communicated with the United States to say that leader Kim Jong Un is ready to discuss his nuclear weapons program with President Donald Trump.

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OVERDRIVE

Chevrolet's cool-looking Z71 Midnight Edition package is offered on Tahoe and Suburban sport utilities, as well as on the Silverado pickups.

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Local

ON INMATES' MALTREATMENT COMPLAINTS

Torres: We take complaints seriously

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and his administration take complaints seriously, even lawsuits from inmates against the state.

Torres in a statement to *Saipan Tribune* said that his office is currently discussing with involved inmates and the Department of Corrections how to properly address their claims of maltreatment and inhumane conditions.

"The [Torres] administration addresses all complaints—including lawsuits—in a very serious fashion, and our DOC

through proper legal counsel looks forward to working with the inmates to further discuss their concerns in a fair and expedited manner for both sides," said a statement from the Torres administration, adding that they could not comment further without first confirming and understanding the allegations.

In a letter dated March 25 and 28, 2018 to the U.S. District Court for the NMI, Jesse James B. Camacho and Xu Guang Li alleged that the living environments in the DOC were not ideal.

Camacho alleged that a fellow inmate, who is ill and is unable to care for himself,

had to use diapers. DOC, however, refused to provide sufficient cleaning supplies for the diapers or to eliminate the odor from the facility.

Li in his letter said that he asked DOC officers for air fresheners but was ignored. He added that when he attempted to speak to the "boss," he was shackled, thrown in the bunk, and had his wheelchair taken away.

Camacho in his letter added that DOC lacked physicians or registered nurses at the facility and inconsistent and missing medicine. In addition to that, Camacho said inmates were getting skin disease from their uniforms

due to how their uniforms are cleaned; described a lacking disciplinary system that fails to benefit inmates through assignments or work duty; and no education programs despite the adequate funding.

In response to the letter, District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said that while the inmates made clear and non-frivolous case, they failed to mention who they want to be held liable.

Manglona said that while most of their allegations are possibly a violation in the Eighth Amendment's guarantee to be free from inhumane confinement con-

ditions resulting from deliberate indifference of officials, complaints against the disciplinary system as well as the lack of education programs did not state a claim.

Manglona ordered Camacho and Li to specify individual government officers and government entities they are suing through a written statement.

Judge says libel cannot arise out of court filings

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has dismissed a libel counterclaim, which was filed by a man who was declared by the federal court as a vexatious litigant, against a widow and her daughter.

Camacho ruled on Thursday that statements made by an attorney during the course of a case, including "all pleadings and affidavits necessary to set the judicial machinery in motion," are absolutely privileged.

Camacho said since the counterclaim clearly establishes the absolute defense against it, that the contents of a complaint cannot be libelous, John Sablan Pangelinan's counterclaim for libel against Secundina Untalan Pangelinan and her daughter, Selina Marie Pangelinan, must be dismissed.

In the same order, Camacho dismissed John Pangelinan's counterclaims for quiet title and abuse of process.

Secundina and Selina Pangelinan, through counsel Janet H. King, are suing John Pangelinan for allegedly abusing the legal system to extort money from them by interfering with a probate matter although he is not a creditor.

Camacho ruled in July 2017 that plaintiffs Secundina and Selina Pangelinan have standing to file the lawsuit and have also alleged facts sufficient to establish the elements of the causes of action of abuse of process and interference with contract.

Camacho cited that John Pangelinan filed several motions in this case.

The judge noted that defendant's repeated filing of motions with little substance with accompanying voluminous attachments is the same filing pattern that he used in a separate lawsuit.

In Secundina and Selina Pangelinan's motion to dismiss the counterclaims, King argued that the libel counterclaim is barred and must be dismissed since defamation actions cannot arise out of ju-

dicial proceedings.

John Pangelinan's libel counterclaim alleges that the Secundina and Selina Pangelinan's lawsuit in the present case accused him of abuse of process.

John Pangelinan further alleged that the plaintiffs "repeatedly and maliciously bad-mouthed" him as a vexatious litigant in their complaint.

He alleged that plaintiffs caused *Marianas Variety News and Views* to publish falsehoods about himself on May 8 and July 21, 2017, where King was quoted in the articles.

He argued that the negative press caused him to lose purchase offers for his land and caused him emotional distress.

In his order last Thursday dismissing John Pangelinan's counterclaim for libel, Camacho said the May 8, 2017 publication, attached to the amended answer and counterclaim as exhibit A, is clearly drawing from Secundina and Selina's complaint throughout the article.

On John Pangelinan's counterclaim for quiet title, Camacho said the claim is dismissed as barred by res judicata.

Under *res judicata*, "a final judgment on the merits of an action precludes the parties or their privies from re-litigating issues that were or could have been raised in that action."

On John Pangelinan's counterclaim for abuse of power, Camacho said such counterclaim is not yet ripe, as the court cannot yet determine whether the present case, was instituted "primarily to accomplish a purpose for which [legal process] is not designed."

Camacho dismissed the abuse of process claim without prejudice.

Dismiss without prejudice means John Pangelinan may re-file such claim in the future.

In June 2008, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood declared John Pangelinan a vexatious litigant and prohibited him from filing any lawsuit or documents in federal court that is related to a 1997 civil lawsuit filed against him.

International ballet stars return to Saipan

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The CNMI was treated to, yet again, another extraordinary ballet concert that featured the performance of returning international ballet stars Aleksei Nasadovich and Margarita Rudina.

Over the weekend, the Glushko Academy of Performing Arts and the Performing Arts Society prepared a two-day ballet concert where Glushko Academy students performed their take on the *The Nutcracker*.

The performance was nothing short of exquisite, leaving the entire audience at the edge of their seats.

What made the performance one for the books was Nasadovich and Rudina's magnificent take on the Nutcracker Prince and the Sugar Plum Fairy during the two-night performance.

The pair arrived last Monday, April 2, from an international performance in New York and immediately started practicing for the concert with the Glushko Academy students.

The ballet duo is considered honored artists from Russia and are global award-winning ballet dancers. They are also world-class performers and principal dancers for numerous ballet practices across the globe.

The pair has performed for audiences in Europe, the United States, South America, Asia, and have volunteered their talents to entertain the CNMI community while also mentoring the students at the Glushko Academy.

According to Glushko Academy founder and president Anna Glushko, the duo has been visiting the island for over 10 years and every visit



KIMBERLY BAUTISTA
World-class ballet performers Aleksei Nasadovich and Margarita Rudina perform as the Nutcracker Prince and the Sugar Plum Princess in the Glushko Academy of Performing Arts' rendition of *The Nutcracker*.

means they give up paid performances and a lavish life in Russia just to teach the academy's students.

Rudina said that the students performed amazingly, not because of their coaching and mentorship, but because of

Glushko who has been an amazing instructor over the years.

Rudina said she and Nasadovich find themselves constantly coming back to the island not just because of the bond she has with Glushko, but also because of the warm

welcome of the local residents during each performance.

Rudina wants to encourage every ballet student in the Glushko Academy to continue ballet dancing because it can open opportunities that one could only dream of.

SNILD reconfirms Taitano to Zoning Board

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation last Friday confirmed Mariano Taitano as a member of the Commonwealth Zoning Board at the House chamber on Capitol Hill.

The SNILD confirmed Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' appointment of Taitano to the Zoning Board for the second time, however a vote was not held during the delegation session last week.

According to the CNMI Constitution, gubernatorial appointments require confirmation within 30 days of the appointment. Taitano was appointed in Feb. 12, 2018, however the delegation was unable to meet within the 30-day period to confirm Taitano's appointment.

"[The delegation was] in the legal opinion that the [30-day period starts] upon the submission of the required documents by our rules," said delegation chair Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan). According to Sablan, the delegation received Taitano's required documents, such as his resume, financial statements, drug testing results, etc., two weeks ago.

"Later on, our legal counsel had concluded that the law on the 30-day grace period starts upon the receipt of the governors communication on the reappointment... Therefore, the appointment had lapsed," Sablan continued.

Despite the 30-day grace period lapsing, Sablan said the session last Friday was held to reflect on the record that the delegation would have confirmed Taitano either way.

In an interview, Taitano, though appreciative to the governor on his reappointment to the Zoning Board, said this could be his last term for the board. Taitano is currently serving his second term at the Zoning Board.

When asked on what his plans are for the board, he said securing requirements remained a priority for him.

"We need to address the issues of [securing] all the requirements according to the Saipan Zoning Law, especially in terms of what [could and could not be] built in a specific zoning area," he said.

Taitano, a former lawmaker, also said that he is in discussion with Sablan regarding the Zoning Board terms. He emphasized that it was not that he

had an issue with the length of the term, but rather the required documents were starting to bare a financial burden, especially with the lower term length.

"As appointees for the Zoning Board, we are spending twice as much more than other boards," he said.

The Commonwealth Zon-

ing Board term is two years, compared to other boards of four years. Some boards even have more.

Taitano said regardless the

delegation changing the term length of the Zoning Board, this term would "probably be my last."

"I am looking forward to

serving in the Marianas Public Land Trust Fund, where my expertise in investments could come in handy," he said. "That has yet to be determined."




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ALLEGED

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and Corrupt Organization Act, breach of contract, fraud, and unjust enrichment.

Dalu, through counsel David G. Banes, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to hold Bhuiyan liable to pay him for unpaid minimum wages, overtime compensation, damages, restitution, court costs, and attorney's fees.

Dalu claimed he himself is a victim of the exploitation by paying huge amount of money as recruiting fee on promises he would have a good life in the U.S. and would get a green card.

Dalu identified Bhuiyan and his brothers Faruq and Motin who allegedly had the common purpose of exploiting Bangladeshis as cheap labor to make money.

According to Banes in Dalu's complaint filed last Friday, from October 2014 to Nov. 15, 2017, Dalu was employed by Bhuiyan's Island Protection Services as a security guard.

Banes said Bhuiyan recruited Dalu from Bangladesh in 2014.

In June 2014, Bhuiyan's brother, Motin, allegedly went to Dalu's family residence in Bangladesh to recruit Dalu to come to Saipan to work for IPS.

Motin told Dalu he had a brother in the U.S. that had a big company and was making \$15,000 per month, and he could talk to his brother to hire him if he wanted to go to the U.S.

Banes said at first Dalu refused, but Motin persisted in recruiting Dalu by talking to the latter's mother and brother.

Later that same month, June 2014, Bhuiyan allegedly called Dalu on the phone and claimed he has a green card and that if he would come to Saipan he would have a good life and he would get him a green card.

Banes said Bhuiyan told Dalu that normally he would charge a recruiting fee of 2 million Taka, but that he was willing to accept 1.8 million Taka.

Banes said Dalu and his family negotiated it down to around 1.5 million Taka (which is about \$18,000).

Dalu's family paid about 1.2 million Taka as a loan to Dalu, toward the recruiting fee.

Dalu signed an employment contract that Motin presented in June or July 2014. He later went through CW-1 visa processing to come to Saipan. CW-1 stands for CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program.

Banes said Bhuiyan's other brother, Faruq, guided Dalu through the visa processing.

Dalu arrived on Saipan in September 2014 and two weeks later, he started work at IPS.

Banes said that one day in June 2015, Bhuiyan gave Dalu a plane ticket to go back to Bangladesh or else the Department of Homeland Security would arrest him.

Banes said when Dalu asked why, Bhuiyan told him his CW-1 visa had expired and he needed to get a new CW-1 visa to come back to Saipan.

Dalu left Saipan on the same day.

After Dalu was back in Bangladesh, Bhuiyan allegedly told Dalu if the balance of the recruiting fee was not paid, IPS would not bring him back to Saipan.

As a loan to Dalu, Dalu's family allegedly paid Bhuiyan.

Dalu came back to Saipan

to work for IPS in November 2015, and continued to work there until Nov. 15, 2017.

Banes said during Dalu's employment, IPS renewed his CW-1 visa multiple times, and each time, Bhuiyan told him that he had to pay the renewal fee.

Dalu paid the renewal fees.

Banes said for Dalu's employment with IPS, he should be paid at least a total of \$57,000 in wages under his employment agreement.

Banes said IPS, however, paid Dalu only a total of \$25,000 and never started the process of sponsoring a green card for him.

The lawyer said in order to pay the recruiting fee, which was over 16 times the average annual income of a Bangladeshi, Dalu incurred a huge debt.

Banes said in addition, by coming to Saipan to work as a security guard, Dalu damaged his career prospects in Bangladesh.

Dalu used to work as a teacher in Bangladesh.

Banes said when Dalu complained about being underpaid, Bhuiyan allegedly

threatened him that IPS would stop employing him and that he would be deported.

Banes said once after Dalu complained about being underpaid, Bhuiyan took a machete from his car and threatened to kill him.

The lawyer said that, in March 2018, Bhuiyan, knowing Dalu is now pursuing legal redress against IPS, threatened Dalu's family in

Bangladesh that Bhuiyan would use his family's influence to make their lives miserable and to harm them if Dalu would not stop.

Banes said Bhuiyan, Motin and Faruq, acting together over a span of more than three years, fraudulently induced 13 Bangladeshis into coming to Saipan and/or forcing them to work for IPS while being underpaid.

TRANSIT

From Page 1

for Saturdays. No buses are in operation on Sundays and holidays.

Tickets cost \$2 for adults and youth ages 12 above and \$1 for youth ages 11 below, seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities. Each ticket is valid for the next two hours from purchase and veterans and people with disabilities are required to register before hand in order to avail of their discount.

The route would start from NMC and runs through Middle Road, cut through the Commonwealth Health Center; loop around the hotel district in Garapan; and vice versa. The route consists of 16 stops from start to finish with the Safety 1st Systems as its halfway point. The bus leaves for each end every two hours start from 6:30am. The route's last scheduled trip is scheduled at 4:30pm for weekdays and 2:30 pm for Saturdays.

"This is where the businesses are; this is where our kids are," said COTA special assistant for public transportation Alfreda Camacho, explaining

why COTA chose this route to initiate public transportation in the CNMI.

"When [students] need to come down [to Garapan] for whatever reason—to study or grab lunch, etc.," she said, adding that the route was ideal for NMC nursing students who need to visit the hospital for their nursing internships.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in an interview said the public transit service was designed for the community. He urges the public to avail of the service.

"...This is to give those who are in need of transportation for work, interviews, check ups, etc. Again, this is the first time ever and we are excited to make this successful and to expand the program," said Torres prior to driving off in one of the two buses available for the route. Torres added that COTA also had Rota and Tinian in its scope for public transit.

Torres is one of five who joined the first ride of the route from Paseo de Marianas to NMC. With him were Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), House vice speaker Janet U. Maratita (R-Saipan), Rep. Donald Barcinas (R-Saipan), and Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang.

MUÑA

From Page 1

gry and not upset with the fact that they will be starting on their own. We were surprised but we wish them the best," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Muña, who last week also fired KCHC executive director Vince Castro and replaced him with CHCC chief financial officer Derek Sasamoto, said her immediate focus right now is on the hospital's grantor, Health Resources and Services Administration.

"Right now, our concern is abiding by federal rules and closing out our obligations with our grantor, HRSA, because our grant with them which started in 2013 will expire on April 30, 2018," she said.

Muña gave a brief background on how CHCC and KCHC acquired the HRSA grant as co-applicants in 2013 and how this became the genesis of the latter's bid for independence.

"Five years ago, CHCC which was still then Department of Public Health did not have a board of directors. One of the requirements of HRSA was the grantee must have a board which KCHC had. What happened was we had the infrastructure but not a board and KCHC did not had the infrastructure but they had a board and this led to us being co-applicants to the grant," she said.

"When the grant was given, we were already CHCC. The grant was to run for five years and the new grant to KCHC did not include CHCC be-

cause we did not know that they applied on their own... we don't know what is in their application" she said.

Muña said that this grant application led to Castro's termination because he did not have authority to deprive CHCC of the grant as he was hired by CHCC to ensure objective management and administration as a CHCC employee and as a KCHC executive director.

"CHCC is within its authority to act on Mr. Castro's employment. Any grantee knows that while federal rules state relationships and authority, the grantee and its employees must operate within the rules of the overarching entity. That entity is CHCC," she said.

"The Kagman board bylaws even state what the Kagman board can do and cannot do with Mr. Castro's employment. As per their own bylaws, which we obtained from the first grant, the board does not have the authority to terminate the chief executive officer's employment with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.," she added.

However, Muña conceded that Velma Palacios, KCHC board chair, was correct in her statement that KCHC has to approve the new selection of the executive director.

"However, she needs to understand that Mr. Castro is no longer an option as he is no longer an employee. We can bicker about who they want to replace him with, but the Kagman board has a duty to be sensible as the closing of the grant is approaching within only a few weeks," she added.

CHCC appointed Sasamoto last week as acting executive director to oversee closing out obligations and liquidation procedures.

"We appointed Sasamoto to facilitate liquidation process which includes budget readjustment and inventory of assets which includes medical equipment, computers which were acquired under the grant that cannot be turned over to KCHC because the grant specifically provides that no asset from the previous grant can be transferred to a private non-profit entity," she said.

"One of our concerns is the KCHC employees hired under the old grant because their future is unclear and this has cultivated a certain fear among them... We cannot continue the work that we do with them because our grant is expiring and we cannot use the old grant to continue working with them," she added.

Muña said that CHCC has already communicated with HRSA, the granting agency, and other authorities in regards to this matter.

"I'm sure, the Kagman board, on the other hand, is working on starting their project too. We wish them nothing but the best in their operations next month," she added.

Palacios: Focus on new grant

Palacios said lost in the controversy that erupted from KCHC's bid for independence from CHCC was KCHC getting a \$1-million annual grant for three years.

"The focus should be on the

grant awarded to KCHC," she told *Saipan Tribune* in a separate interview.

"We have been in the news and to me this is really not the news that should be reported. The focus should be KCHC Inc. applying and being awarded a three-year grant of \$1 million annually to operate independently which none of the other community health centers in our region like Guam, Palau, Chuuk, American Samoa, Pohnpei, Kosrae, etc. have done," Palacios added.

According to Palacios, KCHC is the only community health center in the region to receive a level 2 Patient Centered Medical Home standard of care certification and in fact, most U.S. community health centers are non-profit organizations.

The \$3-million grant that was recently awarded to KCHC was from Health Resources and Services Administration. It's the same grant CHCC and KCHC applied and acquired for as co-applicants in 2013.

"The existing grant which expires on April 30 has KCHC and CHCC as co-applicants. CHCC in this regard maintains the human resources and financial aspects of the community center. However, all the authority to make policies, approve the annual budget, select, dismiss, and review the executive director, among other things are vested with the KCHC board," Palacios said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

ECONOMIC

From Page 1

ministration said that the economy was the key to settling the CNMI's total public debt of \$144.7 million as recorded for fiscal year 2015.

While Torres' budget did not specifically set aside a certain amount for the debt, the statement noted that the CNMI public debt was \$251.7 million for fiscal year 2005, indicating a drastic decrease of public debt at 42.5 percent.

"This figure does not include the governor and Legislature's commitment to addressing several longstanding government obligations such as land compensation and settlements over the last two years, which amount to an additional decrease in the debt by about \$50 million," the statement said.

A few months ago, Torres signed into law a bill that appropriates money obtained from the Casino Gross Tax Revenue into several land compensation judgments, the largest being \$16

million. Each land compensation case accrues interest on a daily basis. According to House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), the Legislature has appropriated over \$116 million for outstanding obligations in land compensation, judgments, retiree benefits, and to the Public School System and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

"These numbers outline the CNMI's economic growth in the past decade, particularly since 2015, and supports the governor and our community's goal to be both financially prudent and secure," the statement added.

"We've done a lot together as a community, but we are cognizant that there are still a lot of challenges. The governor and his administration will continue to pursue policies and initiatives that help maintain our economic viability so that we can bring down the debt even further for the next generations and create more opportunities for families now," concluded the statement.

DFEMS

This car parked along the side of Beach Road in Garapan is one of the 20 vehicles that the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services has towed and impounded since DFEMS starts enforcing the fire lane regulations last April 2.

20 cars impounded since DFEMS starts enforcing fire lane regs

The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services has towed and impounded 20 cars since the implementation of the fire lane regulations took effect last Feb. 26.

DFEMS public information officer Derek Gersonde said since they started enforcing the fire lane law last April 2, as of Saturday night they have towed and impounded 20 vehicles.

Gersonde said most of the vehicles were found parking in the fire lanes in western Garapan.

Gersonde reminded the public not to park in the fire lanes.

"The fines and associated towing and impounded fees can add up," he said.

Some business owners on Saipan, however, criticized the enforcement of the law.

"Garapan lacks parking spaces, we all know that. It's fine if they designate certain fire lane area, but not almost the whole stretch of the road. They are killing businesses," a restaurant owner said.

Last February, DFEMS held a discussion with business owners and the public about the implementation of the fire-lane regulations of the Public Law 19-69 at the Fiesta

Resort & Spa Saipan.

DFEMS Commissioner Claudio K. Norita then stated that obviously there are great some concerns about that they are losing parking.

Norita said as he mentioned several times, "life safety trumps convenience."

The commissioner said the parking that people are used to are those parking on the main highway.

"Those are the concerns about," he said, adding that DFEMS does not designate parking fire lane on the private property and designate only on the public highway access.

Norita said they look at the access roads that lead to fire-fighting and delivery of their emergency vehicles or trucks specifically.

Citation is \$150, towing costs \$250, and storage fee is 20 a day. A police officer or firefighter shall issue a citation for violation. If operator refuses to sign citation, he/she will be arrested. DFEMS said people can contact DFEMS Fire Station in Susupe at 664-9004 to verify if car is towed and that they can pay citation at the Superior Court and provide proof of payment to DFEMS. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

NMC Charter Day deadlines tomorrow

NMC's Charter Day Planning Committee is reminding interested vendors and Car Show participants that the deadline to register to participate in the event is tomorrow, Wednesday, April 11, 2018, by 4pm.

Interested vendors, agencies, businesses, clubs, and other civic organizations are invited to participate in this year's celebration by purchasing booth space for the following categories: food and drinks (water/coconut juice in a nut), game booths,

retail (arts, and crafts, toys etc.), and information.

The booth fee for all commercial vendors is \$150. Non-profit organization booth fees are \$75. Applications forms can be picked up from the NMC-CDI Office in Building P from Queanna Sablan.

For car enthusiasts, NMC's Charter Day Car Show is non-competitive and has no application fee. To register, visit www.marianas.edu. Hard copies are also available for pick-up and submission at the NMC cashier window.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Interested vendors who want to sell their food in NMC's Charter Day have until tomorrow to register.



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Veteran lawyer leaves law firm he formed 20 years ago

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Michael Dotts, a veteran lawyer who handled big clients including the late business tycoon Larry Hillblom, has left the law firm that he and Robert O'Connor formed 20 years ago.

Dotts opened his own law firm on the second floor of the DHL Building on Middle Road next to McDonald's, last Monday, April 2.

Dotts said he wants to start working with younger attorneys on different projects.

"I do expect to join with some partners but I am going to avoid the traditional attorney partnership structure, and consider a more modern approach to operating a law office," said Dotts in an interview.

Asked whether there was a disagreement why he decided to leave the O'Connor Berman Dotts Horey & Banes law firm, Dotts said O'Connor announced that he will retire at the end of this year.

He said the O'Connor law firm has gone through many changes and that he believes this was the right time to try something new.

Dotts said he would like to focus his law practice more sharply on real estate developments and a few larger cases.

"Having my own, smaller law firm, will give me that flexibility," he said.

Dotts disclosed that he has an attorney joining him later in April who is from China and received her law degree in the U.S.

He said she has an advanced degree in tax law and that she

will be working as a paralegal until she passed the CNMI Bar examination.

Dotts recalled how he and O'Connor formed a partnership in a law firm in 1998 that subsequently became one of the biggest law firms in the CNMI.

Dotts said that, in 1996 he was working more and more with O'Connor on labor cases for garment factories.

Two years later, he and O'Connor formed a partnership, then shortly after David G. Banes joined too. The law firm became known as O'Connor Dotts & Banes.

Greg Koeble later became a partner of the law firm.

Dotts said at one point Steven Pixley worked for their firm as an associate and got them involved with his (Pixley) friends on Guam, lawyers Michael and Dan Berman.

"That led to the creation of Pacific Lawyers," said Dotts, adding that Michael Berman then became a non-equity partner of the Saipan firm and the law firm was called O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes.

Joseph Horey later also joined the law firm, which then became O'Connor Berman Dotts, Horey & Banes.

Dotts came to Saipan in 1987 when Hillblom hired him as an associate attorney for his law firm. At that time O'Connor was in private practice with atty. Jay Sorenson.

Dotts and Hillblom mostly worked on a securities lawsuit filed against Saipan Cable TV that was at the time owned by Guam Cable TV and Lee Holmes.

» Dotts worked for Hillblom's companies; helped start Tribune, even delivered newspapers

"Whenever there was a court hearing in the Saipan Cable TV case, that night Lee Holmes would run a nasty editorial about Larry on TV," Dotts said.

After the Saipan Cable TV case was settled, Dotts and Hillblom formed a law partnership called Hillblom & Dotts.

Dotts and Hillblom mostly handled real estate cases as the Article XII controversy was at its height at the time. Dotts was also involved in various development projects including in Palau.

Hillblom & Dotts law firm, however, did not last long because Hillblom became a special judge to the CNMI Supreme Court.

In 1992, Dotts opened his own law office inside Hillblom's office on the third floor of the Nauru Building, which is now the Marianas Business Plaza located in Susupe.

When Sorenson left O'Connor to open his own law office, Dotts started working with O'Connor.

The late Theodore Mitchell then sued Hillblom. Dotts worked on that case with O'Connor out of

O'Connor's office.

Hillblom died in a seaplane crash in 1995.

In terms of big cases, Dotts was extensively involved on Article XII cases in the early years.

When the garment factories were going strong, he handled lots of labor and employment law cases.

Dotts considers Hillblom as his biggest client.

For Hillblom, Dotts represented Bank of Saipan, where he also served as a director for five years. He did some work for DHL but very little.

Dotts said he did work for the companies Hillblom was involved with including

UMDA, MCV, Saipan Computer, and the *Saipan Tribune*.

"I helped start the newspaper and even delivered papers," he recalled.

Dotts generally represented Hillblom or his companies in many cases.

"Larry Hillblom got me involved in several cases trying to protect the civil rights of CNMI residents," said Dotts, citing that one of the most important was *U.S. v. Gov. Guerrero* involving the U.S. authority to enact laws effecting the CNMI.

Dotts argued in that case to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. When Hillblom died, Dotts represented his (Hillblom) long-time girlfriend, Josephine Nocasa, in the probate of Hillblom's estate. Nocasa



Dotts

Red Cross Home Fire Campaign teams up with DFEMS

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter's Home Fire Campaign teamed up with the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services this past weekend to conduct another round of smoke alarm installations. This round of smoke alarm installations targeted homebound individuals that were identified by the Man'amko Center. In total, the team installed 40 free smoke alarms with 10-year batteries making 16 homes safer. Outreach teams also discussed home evacuation routes with families and other fire safety tips.

Even as the Red Cross and other groups install smoke alarms in some neighborhoods, they are calling on everyone to take two simple steps that can save lives: create and practice their home fire escape plan and check their smoke alarms.

There are several things families and individuals can do to increase their chances of



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Another round of smoke alarm installations was conducted by the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter in cooperation with the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services this past weekend.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The team installed 40 free smoke alarms with 10-year batteries in 16 homes.

surviving a fire:

■ If someone doesn't have smoke alarms, install them. At a minimum, put one on every level of the home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas. Local building codes vary and there may be additional requirements where someone lives.

■ If someone does have alarms, test them today. If they

don't work, replace them.

■ Make sure that everyone in the family knows how to get out of every room and how to get out of the home in less than two minutes.

■ Practice that plan. What's the household's escape time?

For more information or to avail of the program, call the ARC-NMI Chapter office at 234-3459. (PR)

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2 graduates of IPI's Earn & Learn Program offered jobs

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC's Earn & Learn Program has produced its third batch of graduates, and were immediately offered full-time employment within the Hotel Operations and Food and Beverage departments of the largest private sector employer in the region.

The Earn & Learn Program was launched in 2017 and is

a joint partnership between Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC and the local educational institutions on Saipan. Through this program, Imperial Pacific continues its commitment towards growing and strengthening the local workforce, and providing them with the necessary on-the-job training and practical work experience.

Four local residents have successfully found employment within IPI through their participation of the company's Earn and Learn Program.

The successful newly hired graduates are from the Northern Marianas Trades Institute. They completed their 240-hour paid internship program with Imperial Pacific.

By participating in IPI's

Earn & Learn Program, these interns were able to experience the many different facets of running a successful casino resort.

Sindaleen Shineachi, who was a Food & Beverage intern, shared her experience by noting that it was so much more than what she had expected it to be. She remains excited to learn new things and to grow



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas Trades Institute's Sindaleen Shineachi and Marie Rabauliman pose for a quick photo after receiving their temporary Commonwealth Casino Commission licenses. Shineachi and Rabauliman recently completed Imperial Pacific International's third batch of the Earn & Learn program.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marie Rabauliman and Sindaleen Shineachi, front row, center, receive their certificate of achievement after recently completing Imperial Pacific International's third batch of the Earn & Learn Program.

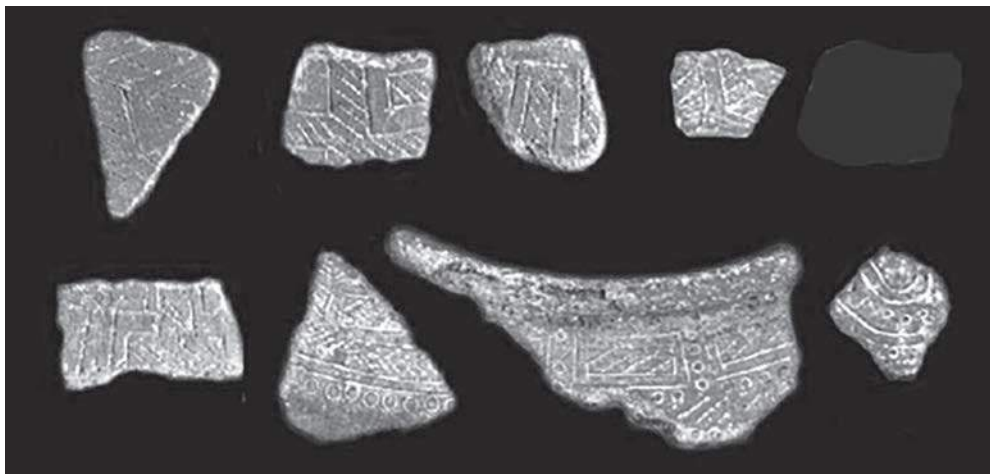
Before We Began Counting Years film screening Thursday evening

The public is cordially invited to the premier screening of *Before we Began Counting Years*, a new 50-minute documentary film on the seafaring settlers of the Mariana Islands that will be held at 6pm on Thursday, April 12, at the Visitors Center Theater, American Memorial Park.

Thousands of years before latte houses and basalt pounding stones, a group of seafarers, the ancient ancestors of the modern-day Chamorro people, first reached the Marianas aboard outrigger sailing canoes.

Others soon followed and helped to establish a few scattered settlements on Guam, Rota, Tinian and Saipan at such areas as Achugao, Unai Bapot, Unai Chulu, and Litekuan.

Who were these people?



DR. MIKE CARSON

Ceramic sherds with lime-filled decorations of the kind found at initial settlement sites in the Marianas.

Where did they come from? What do we know about their lifestyle?

"Before We Began Counting Years," produced by Fr. Francis X. Hezel, S.J. and edited by Len Tenorio, utilizes

the results of recent archaeological research to address these and other questions associated with the early settlers and their culture.

Hezel's film received grant support from the Northern

Marianas Humanities Council. The screening is open to the public and free of charge. Seating will be on a first come, first served basis.

For more information, please contact 235-4785. (PR)

Walk & Roll Against Sexual Violence on April 11

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence is inviting community members to take part in the Walk & Roll Against Sexual Violence on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 in Chalan Kanoa.

Registration will start at 5pm at the Chalan Kanoa

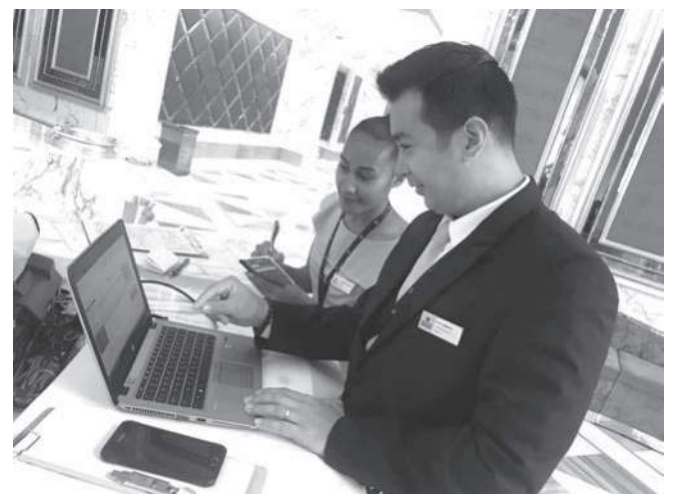
Basketball Court behind the Department of Public Safety's Koban with the walk starting at 5:30pm. The first 100 individuals to register will also receive a free T-shirt.

Walk & Roll participants are also highly encouraged to create signs or banners to help

spread awareness on Sexual Assault Awareness Month, which is this April, and on sexual violence and/or to show support for victims and survivors. This year's theme for the U.S. and CNMI is "Embrace Your Voice."

For more information, con-

tact NMCADSV at (670) 234-3878 or email info@end-violencenmi.org. Also, if you or someone who you know is experiencing sexual violence, call 911 for emergency assistance or call the 24 hour and confidential Victim Hotline at 234-5100. (PR)



Imperial Pacific International's Kristoferson Cuaderes, right, explains the different facets of running a bar within the hospitality industry to Northern Marianas Trades Institute's Sindaleen Shineachi. Shineachi recently completed Imperial Pacific International's third batch of the Earn and Learn program.

Voter registration at KagHS this Friday

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that the Commonwealth Election Commission will be at Kagman High School on Friday, April 13, 2018 from 1pm to 3pm to register members of the community to be eligible to vote in 2018 election. All people must be 18 years or

older by Nov. 6, 2018 in order to be eligible.

Please call one of the PTSA officers at johngonzaleslive@gmail.com, estjashdus@yahoo.com, kyle.munn@cnmipss.org, or lee.pangelinan@cnmipss.org if you have any questions or concerns. (PR)

Daniel Akaka, first Native Hawaiian in Congress, dies at 93

HONOLULU (AP)—Former Sen. Daniel Kahikina Akaka, the first Native Hawaiian elected to Congress who served for more than three decades, died Friday. He was 93.

Akaka died in Honolulu after being hospitalized for several months, said Jon Yoshimura, the senator's former communications director.

The Democrat served 14 years in the U.S. House before he was appointed to replace Sen. Spark Matsunaga, who died of cancer in spring 1990. Akaka won election that fall for the rest of Matsunaga's term, and voters sent him back for consecutive terms until 2012, when he chose not to seek re-election.

His legislative style was described as low-key, a characterization he embraced.

"I have a Hawaiian style of dealing with my colleagues," he said.

Akaka developed a reputation as a congenial legislator who made many friends while making few waves in pressing the interests of the 50th state.

"Senator Daniel Kahikina Akaka embodied the aloha spirit," Sen. Mazie Hirono of Hawaii said in a statement. "He dedicated his life to serving the people of Hawaii as an educator, and in the U.S. Army, state government, the U.S. House, and the U.S. Senate. In Congress, Senator Akaka's care, empathy, and collegiality served as an example for us all."



Akaka

In 1996, Akaka sponsored federal legislation that ultimately resulted in Medals of Honor — the Army's highest honor for bravery — for 22 Asian-American soldiers who fought during World War II. Those soldiers included the late Sen. Daniel Inouye, who was severely wounded in Italy while serving with the famed Japanese-American 442nd Central Postal Directory.

Akaka once said his main accomplishment in Congress was obtaining federal funds for Hawaii for educa-

tion, energy and Native Hawaiian programs.

In the 2006 general election, the then-82-year-old senator stressed the value of his Senate seniority and his opposition to the war in Iraq. Akaka went on to become chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee.

He expanded his harsh criticism of the George W. Bush administration, getting involved in a number of issues with a more aggressive congressional staff. A World War II veteran, Akaka often stressed the hidden damage of war, including mental illness among veterans.

"As we work to meet the needs of all returning service members," Akaka said, "we must pay close attention to the full range of war wounds, from eye trauma and damage to service members' hearing, to (post-traumatic stress disorder) and depression, to burn injuries."

Guam medical pot program at standstill without a testing lab

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—No one has applied for a license to set up an independent testing laboratory nearly two months after Gov. Eddie Calvo signed a bill implementing the rules for a medical marijuana program, a Guam official said.

The marijuana program, approved by voters in 2014, can't start without a testing lab, the Pacific Daily News reported. Department of Public Health and Social Services Acting Director Leo Casil said on Thursday that the program is at "a standstill."

Casil said Public Health still estimates that the startup cost for a testing lab is \$1 million.

Sen. Dennis Rodriguez, who wrote the medical marijuana rules and regulations bill that became law, said the lack of testing lab applicants could be attributed to a lack of regulations. His bill adopted the rules and regulations rewritten by the Department of Public Health, and also opened up the program to non-residents in order to increase the pool of potential patients and make it more financially viable.

"I was hoping Public Health would be more pro-active rather than just waiting for an applicant," Rodriguez said.

He said the Department of Public Health can also reach out to entities such as the University of Guam's Marine Laboratory to do the independent testing.

Voters overwhelmingly approved legalizing medical marijuana on the island for debilitating medical conditions

such as epilepsy, HIV, cancer and glaucoma.

The law requires all medical cannabis, prepared medical cannabis and medical cannabis products on Guam to be tested for potency and safety by an independent medical cannabis testing lab licensed by Public Health before they can be sold to a qualified patient or a qualified patient's primary caregiver.

Although there is no ap-

plicant yet to set up a testing lab, Public Health continues to research other areas of the medical marijuana program, Casil said.

Casil said Public Health is challenged by a lack of experts on medical marijuana as well as other resources.

Rodriguez said at this time, it seems unnecessary to appropriate more funds to Public Health for the medical marijuana program.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO.: RFP18-DPW/SWMD-077

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 10, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC WORKS, SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT CAN BE MADE TO MR. ENRIQUE DELA CRUZ, DIRECTOR, BY EMAIL AT dpwrecycle@yahoo.com NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, APRIL 30, 2018. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

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(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: Thursday, May 10, 2018 • TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2018-005

Building Maintenance Services for NMHC's Housing Units in Saipan

Proposal packets will be available on April 10, 2018, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement regulations, NMIAC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on April 23, 2018, at the NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Acting Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Aubrey Hocog
Chairwoman, NMHC Board of Directors

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

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RFP18 – RED001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: May 26, 2018

"MANAGAHA ISLAND MASTER CONCESSION OPERATOR"

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Lands (DPL), are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified firms interested in being the exclusive master concession operator for service and activities on or relating to Managaha Island.

The RFP instruction and information package (RFP Packet) is available at the DPL office, located on the 2nd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, during the hours of 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, except holidays. If a hardcopy is preferred, a charge of .50 cents per page will be assessed, however, the full package of the RFP is available to download at www.dpl.gov.mp or can be emailed to anyone interested at no cost. Interested proposers from overseas may request an RFP Packet by email reference **"RFP18-RED001 MANAGAHA CONCESSION"**.

Questions from proposing firms regarding the premises and the contents of the RFP Packet must be received, **no later than 4:30 pm on April 23, 2018 ChST** and must be submitted in writing via mail, email or facsimile to Ms. Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo, Secretary, Department of Public Lands at the following address:

Department of Public Lands
P.O. Box 500380
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone number(s): (670) 234-3751/52/53
Facsimile number: (670) 234-3755
Email: marianet@dpl.gov.mp



Sealed proposals must be marked **"RFP18-RED001 MANAGAHA CONCESSION"**. One (1) original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the DPL at its address above **no later than 4:00pm ChST, on May 26, 2018.**

By submitting a proposal, the interested firm agrees to enter into a concession agreement in the form attached to the RFP Packet as Exhibit D. DPL reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal, if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of public land beneficiaries. All costs associated with preparing a proposal are entirely the responsibility of proposers. All proposals shall become the sole property of DPL.

Marianne Concepcion –Teregeyo
Secretary
Department of Public Lands

Opinion

Hafa Adail

Saipan Tribune

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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

More corporations should put gun makers in the crosshairs

Big businesses rarely take courageous stands on hot-button issues that could impact profits. That is why it is worth noting the changes implemented by several Fortune 500 companies following the school shooting in Parkland, Fla., that killed 17 people and injured 17 others.

Citigroup, the giant Wall Street bank, said it would no longer do business with companies that sell bump stocks and high-capacity magazines or sell guns to anyone under 21. Dick's Sporting Goods said it would no longer sell assault-style weapons and high-capacity magazines. Walmart, the biggest gun seller in the country, took somewhat similar steps, including stopping the sale of toy and air guns.

A number of other companies — including Delta Air Lines, Hertz and MetLife — disassociated themselves from the National Rifle Association, which has played the leading role in keeping many state and federal lawmakers from passing common-sense gun laws that many of its members support.

More can and should be done.

After all, 20 first graders and six adults were massacred by a gunman with an assault rifle at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2002 and essentially nothing happened. Since then there have been at least 239 school shootings nationwide.

Yet, after previous shootings most lawmakers and big businesses offered nothing but thoughts, prayers, and lame excuses. But Parkland was a shock-the-conscience moment.

"We have to help solve the problem that is in front of us," said Dick's Sporting Goods CEO Ed Stack, whose company sold the Parkland killer a gun last year.

Credit the Parkland teens who survived the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High for starting a movement that forced corporate America to finally take notice. Since the Valentine's Day mass murder at their school, the students have sparked a powerful grassroots movement that has caused big businesses and lawmakers to sit up and take notice.

Armed with little more than their smartphones, the teens organized marches nationwide and within weeks forced Florida lawmakers, who have long been the leading lackeys for the NRA, to pass the first notable gun reform measure there in decades. When Fox News host Laura Ingraham mocked Parkland shooting survivor David Hogg, he showed her how adept the teens are at mobilizing.

Hogg tweeted out a list of Ingraham's biggest advertisers to his 600,000 followers urging them to call the companies and express their concern. Several companies quickly pulled their ads from Ingraham's show.

In the 1980s, college students helped lead the movement to end apartheid in South Africa through protests and by pressuring institutional investors to divest in companies doing business there. It was a long fight that helped lead to the dismantling of apartheid and Nelson Mandela getting elected president in 1994.

See MORE on Next Page



Where does MLK fit in today's #MeToo world?

Last November, students protesting sexual violence at Morehouse College in Atlanta defaced a church named after the school's most famous graduate. The Martin Luther King Jr. Chapel was spray-painted with the words "Practice what you preach Morehouse + end rape culture," which police officers covered up with a brown tarp.

Today, the students might protest the sexual misconduct of Martin Luther King Jr. himself. Over the past few days, during commemorations of the 50th anniversary of his murder, we've heard a lot about King's prophetic vision of peace and social justice. There's been much less talk about his serial philandering, which reminds us that he was — like all of us — a flawed human being, not a demigod.

It also reminds us that standards of behavior change over time. The #MeToo movement has helped expose pervasive sexual harassment and violence by powerful men who should and must be held accountable for their actions. But we shouldn't read our own values onto people like King, who operated under different norms and rules.

Indeed, nobody in King's circle seemed to think there was anything wrong with his multiple affairs and dalliances. To the contrary, as historian Taylor Branch has written, King's fellow ministers and civil rights activists viewed his sexual conduct as normal or even praiseworthy.

"They saw sexual adventure as a natural condition of manhood, of great preachers obsessed by loves, or of success, or of Negroes otherwise constrained by the white world," Mr. Branch noted, "and they objected to King's mistresses no more than to the scores of concubines who had soothed King David during the composition of his Psalms."

According to Ralph Abernathy, one of King's closest confidants, King attracted women "in droves, even when he didn't intend to." He spent 25 or so days of each month on the road, speaking and organizing; during those stressful trips, King told a friend, sex was "a form of anxiety reduction." And as best we can tell, all of the sex was consensual.

But on the last day of King's life, Abernathy claimed, his behavior crossed the line into verbal and physical violence. After delivering his now-iconic "Been to the Mountaintop" speech in Memphis on the night of April 3, 1968, King allegedly had sex with two different women: one at a friend's house and another at the Lorraine Motel before a third woman showed up the next morning, hours before he would be killed, angry that King had been with other women instead of with her.

King and the third woman quarreled loudly. He "knocked her across the bed," Abernathy wrote in his autobiography, "and for a moment they were in a full-blown fight, with King clearly winning."

By **JONATHAN ZIMMERMAN**
The Baltimore Sun



To be fair, other civil rights leaders who accompanied King to Memphis, including Rev. Jesse Jackson Jr., have vehemently denied Abernathy's version of these events. But at least one of the women King allegedly slept with that night — Georgia Davis Powers, Kentucky's first African-American state senator — confirmed that she had a long-standing affair with King and had been with him at the Lorraine Motel before he died.

So what?

By our standards, King's behavior would be judged boorish and possibly coercive. He used his status and influence to get sex from women. And if Abernathy's account is correct, he used his physical power to abuse at least one of them.

But King lived in his time, not in ours. The term "sexual harassment" wasn't even coined until the 1970s, when the feminist movement began to challenge it in a sustained fashion. The campaign continued into the 1980s, when newspapers exposed presidential candidate Gary Hart's infidelities. And it took on new force in the 1990s, with the Anita Hill-Clarence Thomas Supreme Court hearings and — of course — with Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky.

Most recently, the #MeToo movement has revealed sexual misconduct in every corner of American culture. But it makes no sense to hold Martin Luther King Jr. — or anyone else of his generation — to our own changing mores. Historians call that "presentism," the imposition of contemporary ideas and assumptions upon historical figures who did not share them.

It's a kind of cheating, really, because it evades the hard work of figuring out why people thought and behaved differently from us. And it's also a form of self-flattery, because it allows us to pretend that we're more enlightened — or woke — than we really are.

So, on the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s murder, let's be a bit more charitable to everyone who came before us. And let's also remember the central message of King's ministry: a radical love of your enemies, even if they're hateful racists. Or, we might add, sexual harassers.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Israel has a right to prevent its obliteration

WASHINGTON—Should the U.S. forbid Israel from attacking Iran if it feels the extremist regime in Tehran is about to obliterate it?

Of course not. We have no right to do so, and such a ban would be flatly unenforceable.

Israel's trigger finger has good reason to be itchy. The Israelis always doubted that President Barack Obama's deal with the mullahs would prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear breakout state, and now even that dicey deal is on the ropes.

The Trump administration has delivered a "fix or nix" ultimatum to our European partners. If they don't work with us to close loopholes that leave Tehran a potential nuclear menace, Trump will pull out of the deal. And if they do close the loopholes, Tehran will likely walk. Either way, the threat of a nuclear Iran remains.

And Iran has done more to put the Israelis on edge. Iran has been "weaponizing" its presence in Syria, using surrogates to press the Israelis on every front.

So what happens if Israel decides to make a preemptive strike on

Iran's nuclear facilities? There is no telling how violent the region might get and how far it might spread. Still, the notion of the U.S. flashing the red card to the Jewish democracy makes no sense.

For starters, Israel is anything but an irresponsible actor. The Israelis have monitored the increasing danger of nuclear attacks for decades.

Twice they have undertaken preventive strikes — once, against a suspected nuclear reactor in Syria in 2007, and once again against Iraq's nuclear program in 1981. Israel doesn't need a lesson from the U.S. in how to evaluate risks to its national survival.

Further, no nation has the right to constrain Israel's inherent right of self-defense. While a preventive attack on adversary is not considered an act of just war, a preemptive strike against an enemy, if a nation feels directly threatened, is certainly justifiable.

In addition, an unconstrained Israel is an added deterrent against Iranian aggression. Today, the regime in Tehran regards the U.S. as a faraway power that may or may not step in if they press Israel too much.

By JAMES JAY CARAFANO
Tribune News Service



A graduate of the U.S. Army Military Academy at West Point and Georgetown University, James Jay Carafano is a leading expert on national security and foreign policy issues at The Heritage Foundation. Readers may write him at Heritage, 214 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20002

But Tehran is under no illusion that Israel will be shy or restrained in defending itself. We should keep things that way. It greatly lessens the likelihood that Iran will recklessly overstep.

The Israeli deterrent also lessens the pressure on other Arab states — the pressure to get their own nuclear weapons to protect themselves against Tehran. A strong Israel actually creates an environment that lessens the danger of regional proliferation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We should all be proud

This letter is to express my personal gratitude to the residents of Saipan and Tinian for the gracious hospitality and reception extended to Senator Murkowski and the other members of the congressional delegation, which visited the CNMI on March 27, 2018.

As a person who resides primarily in Alaska, but who spends approximately a quarter of each year on island on various matters, I was honored to be able to assist Senator Murkowski in her visit to Tinian and Saipan. As indicated, my wife, Brenda, and myself have been coming to the Northern Mariana Islands since 1981. We have two Pacific Islander children who we have adopted, and we consider the CNMI to be our second home. Needless to say, after several years of regularly asking Senator Murkowski to visit to CNMI, we were honored and pleased that Senator Murkowski had agreed to accept our long-standing invitation. The Senator's visit to the islands, especially at the period of time during the current CW issues, was particularly timely and provided significant input for her in the decision-making process on issues so critical to the CNMI.

I would especially like to compliment and thank all of those individuals who were involved in making the senator's trip such a successful trip. I was especially pleased with the kindness and graciousness shown by both Congressman Kilili and Governor Torres who, despite their political differences, (which one can always expect in a political environment), were still quite welcoming and most generous and kind hosts.

Although Senator Murkowski's visit was brief, I believe that the senator worked hard to expose herself as much as possible to both Tinian and Saipan, to meet the people, to view the region and to understand important issues. In addition, the senator remarked on two occasions at the end of the trip that she fully intends to return to Saipan. I found this announcement to be particularly heartwarming and encouraging, recognizing that Alaska and the Northern Mariana Islands share many similar issues given our remoteness and distance from Washington, D.C., logistics, energy issues, and the economy.

Finally, Senator Murkowski did communicate with me recently in a text message following her return to Alaska. In that message, the Senator expressed her enjoyment of the trip, stating, "Great visit to Saipan Bill. Thanks for making it so special. You were absolutely right — the island and the people are beautiful."

We should all be proud.

Bill and Brenda Satterberg
Alaska

Muñá must go— not Castro!

The Muñá-Castro issue is really about who is right and who is wrong. My mother in her wisdom taught me that, "two wrongs will never equal one right." I am really fed up with the politics of the CNMI in the political arena and the politics of certain entities and institutions within the government. I even killed and buried my desire to even try and help anymore in the political arena because of the ugly politics and deceitfulness by politicians who have out-right lied to me. But I still haven't given up on being active on other issues facing the CNMI even though there is still some form of politics involved be it "institutional politics or our social fabric." The firing of Mr. Castro was the last straw for me with CHCC as I watched silently for a long time starting with the firing of Mr. Babauta, the Legislature taking of almost \$39 million of CHCC's budget when it became a corporation, and all the problems at CHCC that more recently caused the governor to want Muñá removed and now I see why he wanted her removed.

I don't think the governor should get involved in who will be the CHCC chief executive officer but I do think he should have a role in the process for determining "chief executive officer" even if it's just a recommendation for or against a person which should carry some weight in the board's decision. I must say that I am so thankful that KCHC board chair Velma Palacios said, "Muñá has no authority to fire the executive director because he reports to the board." It is starting to sound a lot like we have a dictatorship at CHCC with arrogance and vindictiveness being two of the choice modes of leadership. Mr. Castro has performed an extraordinary job of starting a clinic in Kagman and taking it to the point that it can be totally self-sufficient, which was truly the right thing to do and even great! He deserves merited recognition taking the clinic to next level of being self-sufficient not being fired.

This is truly an issue about accountability and if Mr. Castro did something wrong then some kind of reprimand may be considered and if Muñá was out of place in firing him as it seems based on a board member then there is certainly a need address Muñá's actions. Muñá even said "the CHCC management and the board of trustees support the center's plan to operate independently" but not the process of doing it behind our back." Mr. Castro is an excellent example of an independent thinker, which is what we teach children to be in order to be in control of their thoughts and even their destiny. But in the CNMI, there is too much of one having to be someone's yes person in order to get ahead and don't complain and for heaven's sake do not go public with anything that can make the powers-that-be mad at you or you are out! I think it is clear this is more than likely what happened to Mr. Castro for going out on his own to make something great happen and Muñá could not get any of the credit and learned about it in the news. I'm almost sure he didn't even want to be bothered with her and her CHCC politics in his desire to make the Kagman clinic and even better place with its own budget that would no longer be subjected to CHCC's politics.

There is a culture within every organization and this ridiculous

claim of "protecting CHCC's resources" is BS for the lack of a better term that exemplifies the culture in CHCC under Muñá's leadership. The resources at the clinic will continue to remain at the clinic and provide the same services and support they have been doing all along. If a transfer of some kind was needed then CHCC should have been glad to transfer these resources officially. Mr. Castro was not taking the resources to the mainland. I'm also sure the employees at the clinic are happy and have complete confidence in Mr. Castro to take care of them like he has since the clinic opened—ask the employees before pretending to be so concerned about their employment security. But the firing was a knee-jerk reaction show the true character and asking questions of true concern before taking actions was never considered. Furthermore, we already have a labor shortage of good professionals so finding someone who is qualified to even take Mr. Castro's place may be a challenge. Maybe a yes person who is friend of a friend or family member that's how it works.

Many citizens are also sick and tired of how CHCC services patients anyway when we have patients young and old not having a pillow or blanket, which are core basic things that a hospital should have for every patient. CHCC can't even keep doctors as one doctor didn't stay a week after seeing what he was getting into. But it gets even worse and I will talk about that in another opinion statement on why we can't keep doctors and why the hospital is not improving like it should and the need to improve and expand the hospital and Medical Referral Program.

I will end with the words of one of my greatest mentors, Dr. King, who said "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere" and it is clear that Muñá has committed more than one wrong, which can never equal one right. Muñá really threatens the expectations of justice and fairness everywhere under her leadership at CHCC, which is why I say maybe it's time for Muñá to go not Castro. Ms. Muñá, this is not personal and I hope you can accept the fact that no one likes ugly and what happened to Mr. Castro was pure ugly and even evil with no appreciation for all the hard work and success that Mr. Castro has done. I respect and think you are a good person but we are all human and capable of mistakes and this firing is setting off alarm bells for me and many others in the wake of the governor's fiasco over your own firing. Heck, I stopped using the family clinic at CHCC which actually has some great people but when one doctor who is Muñá's right-hand man figuratively told me in so many words that "I was on my own with my pain problem from my surgery and with the problem I was having with my feet" that was it for me—so go figure that. I had to go to Guam to get my pain medication and I am now extremely happy with my great Dr. E. at the Kagman clinic who even found a solution for my feet.

But the real questions about CHCC's Leadership are what are the future plans for CHCC? Will it expand and grow with our needs, as it should such as building a cancer unit? Most importantly how will CHCC make sure the appropriate amount of funding will be secured to manifest the maintenance, welfare, and growth of CHCC? The CNMI spent \$27 million to turn a dump into a park how much are our leaders willing to spend to bring our only hospital up to modern day standards, needs, and expectations? One people, one direction for a better CHCC and the reinstatement of Mr. Castro as he is one great guy that we should all be thankful for!

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman

MORE

From Page 10

Similar pressure is being applied to large investors who own shares in companies that manufacture and sell guns. Lawmakers in several states, including New Jersey, are moving to restrict employee pension funds from investing in gun makers.

Sustaining the effort to implement common-sense gun measures will only come about through more pressure on corporate America and the voting booth.

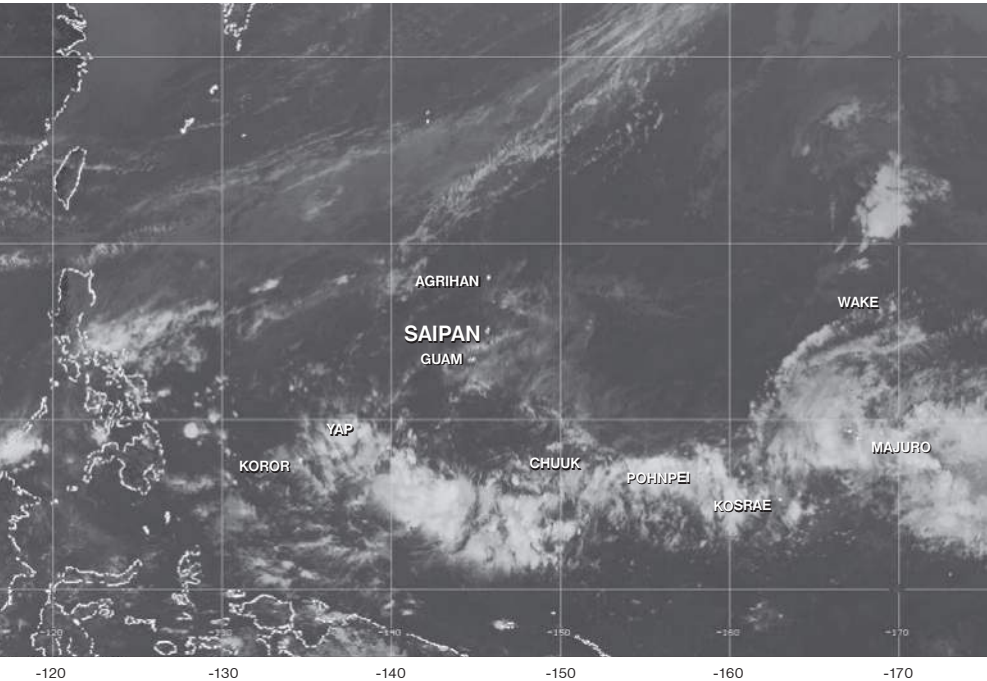
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The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼76°	▲89° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 12:37 AM, MONDAY, APRIL 9, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Models continue to indicate moderate to fresh trades and only isolated showers this week. In fact, have only light showers today and tonight, as moisture will be shallow. GFS, ECMWF and NAVGEM all continue to show disturbed weather moving into the region this coming weekend, mainly Sun-Mon, but still iffy at this point. Marine conditions will remain steady this week with 5-7 ft seas, mod-fresh trades and a moderate rip risk.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Showers	86° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲▼°F
Auckland	Showers	57° / 52°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	75° / 50°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	80° / 72°
Honolulu	Showers	79° / 72°
London	Showers	63° / 46°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	84° / 58°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	93° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	81° / 61°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	84° / 72°
New York	Showers	50° / 36°
Osaka	Showers	72° / 57°
Paris	Showers	57° / 45°
Busan	Showers	68° / 50°
Rome	Rain	66° / 52°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	71° / 45°
San Francisco	Showers	59° / 49°
Seoul	Sunny	63° / 43°
Tokyo	Windy	70° / 57°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	44° / 40°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:29 AM	HIGH TIDE		1.63
10:13 AM	LOW TIDE		1.12
2:44 PM	HIGH TIDE		1.43
10:00 PM	LOW TIDE		0.27

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:30 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:30 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:31 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:53 AM	1:34 PM	-
Wednesday	2:37 am	2:24 pm	-
Thursday	3:20 AM	3:14 PM	-
Friday	4:02 AM	4:05 PM	-
Saturday	4:43 AM	4:57 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)						GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily		UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily	
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily		UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily	
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota		UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6		UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota	
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily		UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily	
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily		UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily	
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)						GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7		UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6	
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)						ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7		UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6	
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)						NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily		DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily	
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)						BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7		7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4	
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5		7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)						SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily		7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily	
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1		OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7	
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily	
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7		OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily		LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7	
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily		7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)						SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7		3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7	
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)						HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1		JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4	
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4		JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7	
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)						GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6		3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5	
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)						BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7		MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN		UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM	
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM		OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM		OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM		PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM	
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM		UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM	
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR						
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)						HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4		OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN		OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7	
U043	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7		U042	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7	
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM		U042	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6	
					UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily

1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SuperStar Virgo's summer cruise ends in Keelung



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

The streets of Keelung, Taiwan are littered with affordable trinkets and snacks that tourists can take home as a keepsake. Resorts World Manila familiarization tour participants were able to indulge in a few of them during the final port stop of Star Cruises' *SuperStar Virgo* summer cruise.

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

Last of a four-part series

The guests of Resorts World Manila's familiarization tour were given a taste of Taiwan's beauty during the final port stop aboard the *SuperStar Virgo*.

As part of Resorts World Manila's familiarization tour from March 5 to 10, media outlets from Guam, Saipan, and tourism specialists from Hawaii were given an all-expense paid cruise on board Star Cruises' *SuperStar Virgo* that made Manila its home port back in 2017 for its summer getaway cruise.

SSV's final port stop on its summer getaway cruise was the beautiful city of Keelung

in Taiwan.

Upon docking on Taiwan's port, the disembarkation process was significantly smoother compared to the disembarkation process in Japan.

On Taiwan, cruisers and fam tour participants were immediately greeted by their tour guides and rushed to their respective buses due to Taiwan's freezing weather.

The first stop on the Taiwan tour was one of Keelung's most popular restaurants called Queens.

Immediately after steeping into Queens, your skin was greeted with a comfortable warmth and your nostrils were greeted with the strong smell of broth and spices.

In Queens, the media outlets from Guam and Saipan were immediately drawn to

the snails marinated in oyster sauce and fried shrimp chips. Although it was extremely horrifying to think of, media outlets dared to eat the snails and found them extremely satisfying.

After lunch, the group was divided into two. Half went on ahead to start their Taiwan shopping experience, while the other half visited Keelung's famous Geo Park.

At the park, after a 10-minute trek up the park, the group was treated to a magnificent sight of Keelung's breath-taking ocean and the sight of Taiwan's mesmerizing mountains.

The park also showcased rocks that were transformed naturally into images like a leopard and a princess.

After the tour of the park, the group was immediately transported to Keelung's biggest tourist attraction, the night market. After about an hour commute, the group finally arrived at the night market.

Although the night air was freezing, the group jumped out of the bus almost immediately after it was parked to make the most of what time they had left before the *SSV* sets sail for



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Resorts World Manila familiarization tour participants walked the streets of Keelung to get a feel of the city's streets.



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

The Taiwan Night Market is littered with vendors that sell the most delectable dishes and Resorts World Manila familiarization tour participants were able to try most of them.

high seas once again.

At the night market, the group was greeted with thousands of little vendors, some of which were selling merchandise, but most were snacks and meals that were cooked right in front of you.

The group was given three hours to explore what the night market had to offer. The market offered freshly picked veg-

etables that could be thrown into soup or noodles, freshly picked fruits, and fish that was freshly caught.

The media outlets from Guam, Saipan, and the tourism specialists from Hawaii had a taste of almost everything the market had to offer from soups, to noodles, to fried foods, to fresh fruits, and more before again

boarding the *SSV* and heading back to Manila.

For individuals interested in choosing the *SuperStar Virgo* for their next getaway, feel free to contact Star Cruises marketing executive Lynch Imbat at (02) 836-6000 loc. 6179 /+63917 6370794 or email her at jan.imbat@gentingcruiselines.com for current and upcoming promotions



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Authentic bubble tea is served warm in the streets of Keelung, Taiwan.



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

The streets of Keelung, Taiwan are littered with vendors that sell fresh ocean catch.



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

A warrior shrine is placed in the center of Taiwan's Night Market.

Business

Amid trade fight, Trump says China will do the 'right thing'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Amid global fears of an escalating trade dispute between the U.S. and China, President Donald Trump suggested that Beijing will ease trade barriers “because it is the right thing to do” and that the economic superpowers can settle the conflict that has rattled financial markets, consumers and businesses.

But fostering more uncertainty, the president’s top economic advisers offered mixed messages Sunday as to the best approach with China, which has threatened to retaliate if Washington follows through with its proposed tariffs, even as Trump emphasized his bond with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

“President Xi and I will always be friends, no matter what happens with our dispute on trade,” Trump wrote. “China will take down its Trade Barriers because it is the right thing to do. Taxes will become Reciprocal & a deal will be made on Intellectual Property. Great future for both countries!”

■■■
BEIJING (AP)—The U.N. secretary-general and the Singaporean foreign minister voiced concerns about global trade tensions and rising protectionism during back-to-back meetings in Beijing on Sunday.

Following remarks from his Chinese counterpart, Singaporean Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan vowed to “double-down” on free trade and economic liberalization in tandem



A container is loaded onto a cargo ship at a port in Qingdao in east China's Shandong province, Sunday, April 8, 2018.

AP

with China.

“This is a time in the world where the temptation to embark on unilateralism and protectionism is unfortunately rising,” Balakrishnan said.

In a separate meeting, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called China “absolutely crucial” in the international system.

“You mentioned reform and opening up—it’s so important in a moment when some others have a policy of closing up,” Guterres told Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

“The solutions for these problems are not to put globalization to question, but to improve globalization. Not isolation or protectionism, but more international cooperation,” Guterres said.

The comments came as China and the U.S. exchanged escalating tariff threats in what is already shaping up to be the biggest trade battle for more than a half century.

■■■

But Trump did not explain why, amid a week of economic saber-rattling between the two countries that shook glob-

al markets, he felt confident a deal could be made.

The president made fixing the trade imbalance with China a centerpiece of his presidential campaign, where he frequently used incendiary language to describe how Beijing would “rape” the U.S. economically. But even as Trump cozied up to Xi and pressed China for help with derailing North Korea’s nuclear ambitions, he has ratcheted up the economic pressure and threatened tariffs, a

move opposed by many fellow Republicans.

The Trump administration has said it is taking action as a crackdown on China’s theft of U.S. intellectual property. The U.S. bought more than \$500 billion in goods from China last year and now is planning or considering penalties on some \$150 billion of those imports. The U.S. sold about \$130 billion in goods to China in 2017 and faces a potentially devastating hit to its market there if China

responds in kind.

China has pledged to “counterattack with great strength” if Trump decides to follow through on his latest threat to impose tariffs on an additional \$100 billion in Chinese goods—after an earlier announcement that targeted \$50 billion. Beijing also declared that the current rhetoric made negotiations impossible, even as the White House suggested that the tariff talk was a way to spur China to the bargaining table.

The new White House economic adviser, Larry Kudlow, said Sunday that a “coalition of the willing”—including Canada, much of Europe and Australia—was being formed to pressure China and that the U.S. would demand that the World Trade Organization, an arbiter of trade disputes, be stricter on Beijing. And he said that although the U.S. hoped to avoid taking action, Trump “was not bluffing.”

“This is a problem caused by China, not a problem caused by President Trump,” Kudlow said on “Fox News Sunday.”

But he also downplayed the tariff threat as “part of the process,” suggested on CNN that the impact would be “benign” and said he was hopeful that China would enter negotiations. Kudlow, who started his job a week ago after his predecessor, Gary Cohn, quit over the tariff plan, brushed aside the possibility of economic repercussions.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Ohio company recalls more than 7 tons of BBQ beef

HARRISON, Ohio (AP)—Federal authorities say an Ohio-based food company is recalling more than 14,000 pounds (6,000 kilograms) of pulled barbecued beef products that could be contaminated with rubber. The U.S. agriculture department’s Food Safety and Inspection Service reports that J.T.M. Provisions Co. of Harrison had received two consumer complaints of extraneous material contamination. There have been no confirmed reports of adverse reactions from consuming the products. They come in a sealed plastic tray with a paper sleeve in products labeled “Bar-B-Q Sauce With Pulled Beef.” Federal authorities say they were produced last September, but they are concerned that some remain frozen in customers’ refrigerators or freezers. They were shipped to retailers in Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio. The service says they should be thrown away or returned to the place of purchase.

Average price of US gas rises 8 cents, to \$2.74 a gallon

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP)—The average U.S. price of regular-grade gasoline shot up 8 cents a gallon over the past two weeks to \$2.74. Industry analyst Trilby Lundberg said Sunday the increase was driven primarily by rising crude

oil prices. The current gas price is 30 cents above where it was a year ago. The highest average price in the contiguous 48 states was \$3.63 in the San Francisco Bay area. The lowest was \$2.37 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The average price for diesel fuel rose three cents, to \$3.04.

Expansion of Canada’s Trans Mountain pipeline in doubt

TORONTO (AP)—Kinder Morgan’s controversial Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project that would nearly triple the flow of oil from Canada’s oil sands to the Pacific Coast was in doubt Sunday after the company announced a suspension in all non-essential activities and related spending on the project. The company said its decision was based on the British Columbia government’s opposition to the project, which has also been the focus of sustained protests at Kinder Morgan’s marine terminal in Burnaby, British Columbia. Kinder Morgan said it would consult with “various stakeholders” to try to reach an agreement by May 31 that might allow the project to proceed. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has insisted the project should be completed despite the angry protests and the British Columbia government’s continued battle against it in the courts. The federal government urged British Columbia on Sunday to stop delaying the pipeline project.

Facebook to send Cambridge Analytica data-use notices Monday

NEW YORK (AP)—Get ready to find out if your Facebook data has been swept up in the Cambridge Analytica scandal.

Starting Monday, the 87 million users who might have had their data shared with Cambridge Analytica will get a detailed message on their news feeds. Facebook says most of the affected users (more than 70 million) are in the U.S., though there are over a million each in the Philippines, Indonesia and the U.K.

In addition, all 2.2 billion Facebook users will receive a notice titled “Protecting Your Information” with a link to see what apps they use and what information they have shared with those apps. If they want, they can shut off apps individually or turn off third-party access to their apps completely.

Reeling from its worst privacy crisis in history—al-

legations that this Trump-affiliated data mining firm may have used ill-gotten user data to try to influence elections—Facebook is in full damage-control mode. CEO Mark Zuckerberg acknowledged that he made a “huge mistake” in failing to take a broad enough view of what Facebook’s responsibility is in the world. He’s set to testify before Congress next week.

Cambridge Analytica whistleblower Christopher Wylie previously estimated that more than 50 million people were compromised by a personality quiz that collected data from users and their friends. In an interview aired Sunday on NBC’s “Meet the Press,” Wylie said the true number could be even larger than 87 million.

That Facebook app, called “This is Your Digital Life,” was a personality quiz created in 2014 by an academic

researcher named Aleksander Kogan, who paid about 270,000 people to take it. The app vacuumed up not just the data of the people who took it, but also—thanks to Facebook’s loose restrictions—data from their friends, too, including details that they hadn’t intended to share publicly.

Facebook later limited the data apps can access, but it was too late in this case.

Zuckerberg said Facebook came up with the 87 million figure by calculating the maximum number of friends that users could have had while Kogan’s app was collecting data. The company doesn’t have logs going back that far, he said, so it can’t know exactly how many people may have been affected.

Cambridge Analytica said in a statement Wednesday that it had data for only 30 million Facebook users.

Nation

Congress back from break with to-do list to keep Trump happy

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Republican majority in Congress was on a glide path to the midterms, having passed tax cuts into law and backed off budget battles with a year-end funding package. But President Trump was not impressed.

Trump started picking apart some GOP accomplishments, including the big budget bill, and complaining that others, namely his border wall, remained undone.

Now, Congress returns from spring break Monday scrambling to compile a to-do list that will satisfy a president they desperately need to be promoting their achievements, not undermining them, as they prepare to hit the campaign trail.

"A lot of members would prefer to spend the rest of the year focusing on getting re-elected, but there's pressure from the White House ... to deliver more policy wins before facing voters," said Alex Conant, a GOP strategist.

But belittling lawmakers and badgering them to work doesn't help instill voter confidence in Republicans already facing an enthusiasm gap with Democrats fired up to go to the polls, strategists say. They need Trump on their side, not piling on.

"Every day that Trump attacks Congress, he hurts Republicans' chance of keeping the majority," Conant said.

The problems between Trump and Congress, festering for months, spilled into the open when the president toyed with vetoing the



In this Sept. 27, 2017, file photo, an early morning runner crosses in front of the U.S. Capitol as he passes the flags circling the Washington Monument in Washington.

\$1.3 trillion funding bill he thought spent too much money on Democratic priorities and not enough on his, including the border wall.

While Congress was away, Trump started talking about rescinding some of that money, working with House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., on a do-over package that would force lawmakers into another round of budget votes this spring or summer. It remains under discussion, aides said.

At the same time, Trump's revolving door of Cabinet sec-

retaries has created a legislative logjam of its own. It has forced the Senate to launch lengthy confirmation hearings, starting with this week for Mike Pompeo as the new secretary of state. After that, there are Trump's picks for CIA director and Veterans Affairs secretary.

The nomination battles are sure to dredge up tough debates—over the Russia probe, the CIA's use of waterboarding and other harsh interrogation techniques now outlawed, and the spiraling costs and care at the VA.

on victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in 2012, in which 26 children and adults were killed.

He feared that Sandy Hook wouldn't be the last school shooting, and his assumption has been borne out again and again, with the Feb. 14 killing of 17 people at a Florida high school only the latest major incident.

"I've been a trauma surgeon for over 40 years and have seen a lot of gunshot wounds," he said, but an elementary school massacre is "entirely different. These are 6-year-olds with wounds from very high-powered weaponry, and it changes you."

Jacobs and other like-minded surgeons formed a group that expanded to include law enforcement and other first responders who developed strategies for helping victims survive.

They're hardly the top conversations lawmakers would choose as their focus in the months before an election.

A senior administration official told reporters on a conference call last week that border security could be among the biggest issues for Congress this spring and summer.

That's likely news to Republicans running for re-election, particularly in

swing districts or with sizable minority populations, who have shown little interest in the kind of beefed-up border security the administration has proposed to turn back unaccompanied minors and clamp down on asylum seekers.

To complicate the agenda further, Trump wants Congress to try again on an immigration overhaul, an issue

Republicans were happy to shelve earlier this year after he rejected their compromise with Democrats. They offered \$25 billion for the border wall in exchange for deportation protections for the young immigrants known as "Dreamers."

Trump's to-do list is not the springtime agenda Republicans in Congress were hoping for. Instead, they had expected to spend the next few months tackling more modest measures. Among them: legislation to address the opioid epidemic and symbolic House bills on making tax cuts permanent or achieving a balanced budget that, though unlikely to become law, could motivate Republicans to go to the polls in November.

Republicans were planning to ride to re-election this fall on the success of their tax cuts package, a once-in-a-generation accomplishment that has long been among the GOP's top priorities.

But at a campaign stop last week, even Trump seemed to have tired of the tax cuts. He literally tossed his prepared remarks aside as "boring" and instead focused on a caravan of Central American migrants making its way through Mexico and on his plan for National Guard troops at the border. Trump even revived his attack on immigrants as "rapists" from his presidential campaign.

Teachers acquire a new skill: How to stop the bleeding

PLEASANT HILL, Iowa (AP)—As she learned the basics of applying direct pressure, packing a wound with gauze and tying a tourniquet, sixth-grade math and social studies teacher Kari Stafford shook her head at the thought that this may now be an essential skill for her profession.

Stafford didn't like it, but with school shootings now a regular occurrence, she and her colleagues have reluctantly accepted that the attacks won't stop and that teachers must know how to keep the victims from bleeding to death.

"Learning to help and not just stand there is important," said Stafford, who joined about a dozen other educators at a medical training session at Southeast Polk High School, a sprawling 9-year-old campus surrounded by farmland in Pleasant Hill, just east of Des

Moines.

Over the past five years, about 125,000 teachers, counselors and administrators across the country have been trained in stemming blood loss as school officials have become resigned to the grim trend. The effort is rapidly expanding, and more schools are now stocking classrooms with supplies that would be familiar to any military medic: lightweight tourniquets, gauze coated with blood-clotting drugs and compression bandages.

Although schools are adding security and even arming teachers to deter attacks, new emphasis is being given to saving the wounded while counting down the minutes until help arrives.

The teacher triage idea was initially pushed by Dr. Lenworth Jacobs of Hartford, Connecticut, who operated

Child advocates ask FTC to investigate YouTube

By MATT O'BRIEN
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

Read carefully through the fine print of YouTube's terms of service and you might notice that you've affirmed you are old enough to watch it.

"If you are under 13 years of age, then please do not use the service," the terms say. "There are lots of other great web sites for you."

It's a warning that goes unheeded by millions of children around the world who visit YouTube to watch cartoons, nursery rhymes, science experiments or videos of toys being unboxed.

In a formal complaint being filed Monday, child advocates and consumer groups are asking the Federal Trade Commission to investigate and impose potentially billions of dollars of penalties on Google for allegedly violating children's online privacy and allowing ads to target them.

"Google profits handsomely from selling advertising

to kid-directed programs that it packages," said Jeff Chester, director of the Center for Digital Democracy, one of the groups that drafted the complaint. "It makes deals with producers and distributors of kids' online programs worldwide. Google has built a global and very lucrative business based on kids' deep connections to YouTube."

YouTube's business model relies on tracking IP addresses, search history, device identifiers, location and other personal data about its users so that it can gauge their interests and tailor advertising to them. But that model isn't supposed to work for U.S. children, who are protected by the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act. That's a 20-year-old law that prohibits internet companies from knowingly collecting personal data from kids under 13 without their parents' consent.

The coalition accuses YouTube of violating COPPA and deliberately profiting off luring children into what Ches-

ter calls an "ad-filled digital playground" where commercials for toys, theme parks or sneakers can surface alongside kid-oriented videos.

YouTube said in an emailed statement that it "will read the complaint thoroughly and evaluate if there are things we can do to improve. Because YouTube is not for children, we've invested significantly in the creation of the YouTube Kids app to offer an alternative specifically designed for children."

That toddler-oriented YouTube Kids app, launched in 2015, offers more parental controls but is not widely used—and uses the same videos and channels that kids can also find on the regular YouTube service.

Although it's not known if the FTC will take action, the complaint comes at a time of increased public scrutiny over the tech industry's mining of personal data and after the FTC opened an investigation last month into Facebook's privacy practices.

Asia

North Korea tells US that Kim ready to discuss nukes

WASHINGTON (AP)—North Korea's government has communicated with the United States to say that leader Kim Jong Un is ready to discuss his nuclear weapons program with President Donald Trump, officials said Sunday, increasing the likelihood that the unprecedented summit will actually occur.

The confirmation from Pyongyang directly, rather than from third countries like South Korea, has created more confidence within Trump's administration about the wisdom of holding such a meeting, as U.S. officials make secretive preparations. The Trump administration has long said that if the North Koreans weren't ready to discuss giving up their nuclear program, there was no reason for the two countries to hold negotiations.

Trump took his own administration and other countries by surprise last month when he accepted an unusual offer from Kim to hold a meeting. The North had conveyed the invitation to a visiting delegation from South Korea, which



in turn traveled to Washington and relayed the message to Trump.

The president said yes to

the meeting on the spot, even though the U.S. had not yet heard directly from North Korea about Kim's intentions.

The U.S. later heard from other countries including China, where Kim paid a rare visit, that the North was serious

about the offer.

Still, North Korea's government has not said anything publicly at all about a meeting with Trump, and the lack of known contact between Pyongyang and Washington about the meeting has fueled further speculation about the seriousness of Kim's offer.

A Trump administration of-

AP
A map of two Koreas showing North Korea's capital Pyongyang and South Korea's capital Seoul is placed at the Imjingak Pavilion in Paju, South Korea, Saturday, April 7, 2018.

ficial on Sunday said that the U.S. had "confirmed that Kim Jong Un is willing to discuss the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula?" A second official said that confirmation had come through direct contact between American and North Korean officials.

Neither of the officials would say when or how the contact took place, nor in what location. The officials weren't authorized to comment by name and demanded anonymity.

Previously, former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson had said there were at least two or three channels through which U.S. and North Korean officials communicate from time to time.

The Trump administration has not said where the meeting will place or whether a location has been determined, nor has an exact date been set. Initially, the White House said it expected the meeting to take place by the end of May. It's unclear whether a date that early could be achieved or whether it might be delayed.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Nearly 50 Indonesians dead in April from bootleg liquor

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Nearly 50 people have died after drinking bootleg liquor in western Indonesia including the capital Jakarta in little more than a week. In the latest incident, 17 people died between Thursday and early Monday in Cicalengka subdistrict near the West Java capital of Bandung. Head of the state-run hospital in Cicalengka, Yani Sumpena, said Monday that 16 died at the hospital and one was dead on arrival. Jakarta police spokesman Argo Yuwono said another 31 people have died in Jakarta and its satellite cities of Depok and Bekasi in separate incidents since the beginning of the month. High taxes on alcohol have spawned a black market for booze among the poor in Indonesia, the world most populous Muslim nation. Potentially lethal ingredients including methanol are sometimes used in bootleg recipes.

Another former South Korean leader charged with corruption

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean prosecutors say they've indicted former President Lee Myung-bak on bribery, embezzlement and other charges. Lee's

indictment Monday came three days after his successor Park Geun-hye was sentenced to 24 years in prison for a separate corruption scandal. The Seoul Central District Prosecutors' Office said Monday it charged Lee with taking a total of 11 billion won (\$10 million) in bribes from the country's spy agency, Samsung and others. Lee has also been charged with embezzling about 35 billion won (\$33 million) of official funds from a private company he owned and evading corporate taxes totaling 3 billion won (\$281,270). Lee was a Hyundai executive and a Seoul mayor before serving as president from 2008-2013. Lee has been at a Seoul detention center since his arrest last month.

Strong quake cracks streets in western Japan, injuring 5

TOKYO (AP)—A strong earthquake hit western Japan early Monday, cracking streets, cutting water and power to a number of homes and injuring five people. The Meteorological Agency said the magnitude 6.1 quake struck 12 kilometers (7 miles) underground near Ohda city, about 800 kilometers (480 miles) west of Tokyo. Five people sustained injuries, but most of them were minor and not life-threatening, the

Fire and Disaster Management Agency said. The quake also rattled nearby Izumo, home to one of Japan's most important Shinto shrines. No damage was reported at the shrine. The Fire and Disaster Management Agency said roads were cracked in some locations, while more than 1,000 households lost water supplies and dozens of homes were without electricity. Local officials said dozens of trains in the region were delayed or suspended. There was no danger of a tsunami.

China bans exports to North Korea of weapons-related goods

BEIJING (AP)—China has tightened trade controls on North Korea by banning exports of electronics and other goods that can be used in making weapons. The ban announced late Sunday is part of U.N. Security Council sanctions imposed to press the government of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to stop developing nuclear and missile technology. The latest ban covers "dual use" industrial components, metal alloys and other materials that can be used in both civilian products and weapons. China accounts for nearly all of the isolated North's trade and energy supplies. Beijing has im-

posed limits on oil sales and cut deeply into the North's foreign revenue by ordering North Korean businesses in China to close, sending home migrant workers and banning purchases of its coal, textiles, seafood and other exports.

Pakistan tribesmen rally against security forces in Peshawar

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Thousands of people from Pakistan's tribes have rallied in the northwestern city of Peshawar demanding the release of scores of suspects being held by authorities on alleged links to militants. The participants chanted against security forces and carried portraits of relatives they claim went missing during military operations in recent years. An estimated 15,000 people attended Sunday's rally organized by the Movement for Protection of Pashtuns group. In his speech, organizer Manzoor Pashteen said they are calling for the "right to live without fear." The group has become active since January when police killed a 27-year-old aspiring model from the tribes, Naqeeb Ullah, in Karachi, the capital of Sindh province. The rally also called on authorities and the army to clear mines planted in their areas during their operations there.

Pakistan summons US envoy over deadly crash

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan summoned the American ambassador on Sunday to lodge a formal protest after a road crash involving a U.S. Embassy vehicle killed a Pakistani motorcyclist.

Ambassador David Hale was told that another man riding on the motorcycle was wounded in Saturday's accident, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. It said "justice will take its course" in accordance with local and international laws.

Pakistani TV stations have aired footage showing a white vehicle running a red light and striking a motorcyclist, who can be seen flying through the air. The family of the motorcyclist, identified by police as 22-year-old Ateeq Baig, has lodged charges against the U.S. diplomat, saying he ran a red light.

Pakistani police briefly detained the diplomat, but did not arrest him as he enjoys diplomatic immunity. On Sunday, police said they are examining footage of the accident from a surveillance camera. Interior

Minister Ahsan Iqbal said the diplomat violated traffic laws and that a case has been registered, without providing further details.

The U.S. Embassy issued a statement expressing sympathy for the family of the motorcyclist and for those injured in what it said was a "tragic traffic accident involving a U.S. Embassy vehicle."

"Embassy officials are cooperating with local authorities who are investigating the accident," it said.

Police have identified the U.S. diplomat as Col. Joseph Emanuel Hall, a defense attaché, saying he was alone in the car at the time of the crash. Police impounded the embassy car as part of the investigation.

In February 2011, a contractor employed by the U.S. Consulate shot and killed two Pakistanis in Lahore, and struck and killed a bicycle rider as he sped from the scene in his vehicle. The incident drew nationwide condemnation and strained ties between Washington and Islamabad.

World

Trump warns Assad: 'Big price to pay' for fatal Syria attack

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump on Sunday condemned a “mindless CHEMICAL attack” in Syria that killed women and children, called Syrian President Bashar Assad an “animal” and said there would be a “big price to pay” for resorting to outlawed weapons of mass destruction.

Hours later, Syria’s state-run news agency reported a missile attack early Monday at an air base in Syria’s Homs province and labeled it a “likely” U.S. aggression. However, a Pentagon spokesman quickly denied the U.S. was behind the strike.

In the wake of the reported poison gas attack, officials in Washington worked Sunday to verify the claim by Syrian opposition activists and rescuers that the Assad government was responsible.

Just over a year ago, Trump ordered dozens of cruise missiles to be fired at a Syrian air base after declaring there was no doubt Assad had “choked out the lives of helpless” civilians in an attack that used banned gases. White House advisers said at the time that images of hurt children helped spur the president to launch that air strike, and television



AP
This image released early Sunday, April 8, 2018 by the Syrian Civil Defense White Helmets, shows a rescue worker carrying a child following an alleged chemical weapons attack in the rebel-held town of Douma, near Damascus, Syria.

new shows on Sunday aired similar depictions of suffering young Syrians.

“Many dead, including women and children, in mindless CHEMICAL attack in Syria,” Trump tweeted. “Area of atrocity is in lockdown and encircled by Syrian Army,

making it completely inaccessible to outside world. President Putin, Russia and Iran are responsible for backing Animal Assad. Big price to pay. Open area immediately for medical help and verification. Another humanitarian disaster for no reason whatsoever. SICK!”

Saturday’s attack took place in a rebel-held town near Damascus amid a resumed offensive by Syrian government forces after the collapse of a truce. Syrian activists, rescuers and medics said a poison gas attack in Douma killed

at least 40 people, with families found suffocated in their houses and shelters. The reports could not immediately be independently verified.

The developments come as Trump has moved to dramatically scale back U.S. goals in

Syria, pushing for a quick military withdrawal despite resistance from many of his national security advisers. Trump has given no formal order to pull out the 2,000 U.S. troops in Syria or offered a public timetable other than to say the U.S. will withdraw as soon as the remaining Islamic State fighters can be vanquished.

But Trump has signaled to his advisers that, ideally, he wants all troops out within six months.

Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona said Assad heard Trump’s signal that he wanted to withdraw from Syria and, “emboldened by American inaction,” launched the attack. In a statement, McCain said Trump “responded decisively” last year with the air strike and urged Trump to be forceful again to “demonstrate that Assad will pay a price for his war crimes.”

Images released by the Syrian Civil Defense White Helmets, a volunteer organization, show children lying on the ground motionless and foaming at the mouth. The Assad government, in a statement posted on the state-run news agency SANA, denied responsibility.

Canada town’s arena focus of mourning after crash kills 15

HUMBOLDT, Saskatchewan (AP)—The people of this small town grieved at their hockey arena Sunday, laying flowers and jerseys in a makeshift memorial at the entrance and later gathering inside to mourn the deaths of 15 people when a semi-trailer slammed into the bus carrying the local youth hockey team.

The 14 others on the bus were injured, some critically, in Friday night’s collision, which has Canada, its national sport and the hockey-obsessed town of Humboldt reeling. Among the dead are Broncos head coach Darcy Haugan, team captain Logan Schatz and radio announcer Tyler Bieber.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau visited the injured at the hospital Sunday and then attended the vigil held in the town’s arena Sunday night. Trudeau sat among the crowd with his 11-year-old son, Xavier, a hockey player.

Team President Kevin Garinger choked back tears as he read out the names of the 15 dead. People embraced each other, crying. Boxes of Kleenex were passed down rows.

Behind them, flowers ringed the team logo at center ice. In front of them, there were pictures of the dead and injured.

Humboldt pastor Sean Brandow said he was on his way to the Broncos game Friday and arrived at the scene right after the collision. He described hearing the cries and holding the hand of a lifeless body.

“I walked up and saw a scene I never want to see again, heard sounds I never want to hear again,” Brandow said.

Residents of this town of less than 6,000 people earlier left flowers, jerseys and personal tributes on the steps of the arena’s entrance. One tribute included a Kraft macaroni and cheese dinner box, which was a favorite meal of deceased forward Evan Thomas. A bouquet of pink roses adorned the box, which read: “to Evan, game day special, love your billet brother and sister Colten and Shelby.”

While most of the players were from elsewhere in western Canada, they were put up by families in the small town of Humboldt. Billeting families are a large part of junior hockey, with players spending years with host families.

Dennis Locke, his wife and three young children came to the arena to hang posters of forward Jaxon Joseph, who was the son of former NHL player Chris Joseph. The

Locke family hosted Joseph and treated him like a son.

“Best person ever,” Locke said. “Down to earth, loved playing with the kids.”

His wife wiped away tears from swollen eyes.

Forwards Jacob Leicht, Logan Hunter and Conner Lukan and defensemen Stephen Wack, Adam Herold, Logan Boulet and Xavier Labelle were also among the dead, according to family members and others. Assistant coach Mark Cross, bus driver Glen Doerksen and stats keeper Brody Hinz, who was 18, were also killed.

Herold, who would have turned 17 Thursday, played for the Regina Pat Canadians hockey team until just weeks ago, but was sent to join the Broncos for their playoff round when the Pat Canadians’ season wrapped up, said John Smith, the Pat Canadians’ manager.

As the names of the dead emerge, “it’s getting harder and harder,” Humboldt Mayor Rob Muench said. “This is going to be a long haul for us.”

Norman Mattock, a longtime season ticket holder, said his neighbor housed player Morgan Gobeil. The defenseman was severely injured and remains in serious but stable condition, Mattock said.

Syrian news reports missile attack; US denies it fired them

BEIRUT (AP)—Missiles struck an air base in central Syria early Monday, its state-run news agency reported. Although the agency said it was likely “an American aggression,” U.S. officials said the U.S. had not launched airstrikes on Syria.

The missile attack followed a suspected poison gas attack Saturday on the last remaining foothold for the Syrian opposition in the eastern suburbs of Damascus. At least 40 people were killed, including families found in their homes and shelters, opposition activists and local rescuers said.

SANA reported that the missile attack on the T4 military air base in Homs province resulted in a number of casualties.

Earlier, President Donald Trump had promised a “big price to pay” for the suspected chemical attack. After the airstrikes were reported, however, Pentagon spokesman Christopher Sherwood said in a statement, “At this time, the Department of Defense is not conducting air strikes in Syria.”

The U.S. launched several dozen Tomahawk cruise missiles at a Syrian air base last year after a chemical attack

in the northern Syrian town of Khan Sheikhoun killed dozens of people. Israel has also struck inside Syria in recent years.

The suspected poison gas attack Saturday on the besieged town of Douma came almost exactly a year after the U.S. missile attack prompted by the Khan Sheikhoun deaths.

In response to the reports from Douma, Trump on Sunday blamed Syrian government forces for what he called a “mindless CHEMICAL attack.” In a series of tweets, Trump held Russia and Iran, Syrian President Bashar Assad’s chief sponsors, responsible.

The Syrian government denied the allegations, calling them fabrications.

First responders entering apartments in Douma late Saturday said they found bodies collapsed on floors, some foaming at the mouth. The opposition’s Syrian Civil Defense rescue organization said the victims appeared to have suffocated.

They did not identify the substance used, but the civil defense organization, also known as the White Helmets, and the Syrian American Medical Society, a medi-

cal relief organization, said survivors treated at clinics smelled strongly of chlorine.

Those reports could not be independently verified because of a government blockade around the town.

Hours after the attack, the Army of Islam rebel group agreed to surrender the town and evacuate their fighters to rebel-held northern Syria, Syrian state media reported. The group also agreed to give up its prisoners, a key demand of the government.

The government agreed to halt its assault after three days of indiscriminate air and ground attacks.

“There’s nothing left for civilians and fighters. We don’t have anything to stand fast,” said Haitham Bakkar, an opposition activist inside the town. He spoke to the Associated Press by WhatsApp. “People now are going out in the streets looking for their loved ones in the rubble,” Bakkar said. “And we don’t have any space left to bury them.”

More than 100 buses entered the town Sunday night to transport fighters and their families to Jarablus, a town under the shared control of rebels and Turkey, said Syrian state-affiliated al-Ikhbariya TV.

Focus

For-profit colleges struggle despite assist from DeVos

By MARIA DANILOVA and RICHARD LARDNER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—The for-profit college industry is struggling under the weight of declining enrollment, stiff competition from traditional universities and an image battered by past misdeeds, even as the Trump administration tries to offer a helping hand.

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos has hired several industry insiders and frozen Obama-era regulations that would have increased protections for students. She has reduced loan forgiveness relief for some former students defrauded by their schools, meaning that the for-profit industry could be on the hook for less. And she is considering reinstating an ousted oversight agency for many for-profit colleges.

"There is a serious attempt by this department to find that appropriate fair balance for both students and schools," Steve Gunderson, president of Career Education Colleges and Universities, the industry lobbying group, said in an interview.

But Timothy Lutts, president of the Cabot Wealth Network in Salem, Massachusetts, sees an industry in decline. An improving economy has led to lagging enrollment as adult students return to the workplace instead of seeking a degree to burnish their re-

sumes, he said. For-profit colleges now also compete with nonprofit schools that offer online degree programs without the stigma that still haunts money-making schools.

"It was a great sector a decade ago," Lutts said. "For for-profit schools, the tide is still going out."

Student enrollment at most four-year for-profit colleges fell in 2017 to just over 901,000, down nearly 69,000 from the year before, according to data compiled by the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center. It's a downward trend that began in the fall of 2010.

The falling numbers have led to upheaval.

Adtalem Global Education in December unloaded DeVry University by transferring ownership of the struggling school at no cost to a small for-profit education company in California. The move came a year after DeVry agreed to a \$100 million settlement to resolve a Federal Trade Commission lawsuit alleging the school misled students through deceptive ads.

Corinthian Colleges collapsed in 2015 and ITT Technical Institute a year later.

Donald Trump's election as president had held the promise of heady times for the industry. After all, he was the founder of Trump University.

Among the DeVos hires are senior counselor Robert Eitel,

who served as an attorney for Bridgepoint Education; Julian Schmoke, the top financial enforcement official, who once worked as an academic dean at DeVry; and Diane Auer Jones, who was hired as a senior policy adviser this month, used to lobby for Career Education Corporation, a major for-profit operator.

"What we have here is essentially an embrace of that industry by the Trump administration," said Kathleen Clark, a law professor at Washington University in St. Louis. "If the concern is that a whole industry has been exploiting the situation, you wouldn't want any one from that industry being involved in any regulation, you would be skeptical."

Paul Peterson, a professor of education at Harvard University, said DeVos' hiring decisions were not unusual. Historically, U.S. administrations have tended to fill many positions with people outside the government sector in order to bring new energy and perspective, with Democrats traditionally relying most on lawyers and academics, while Republicans picking industry practitioners.

"You don't want people running the government who don't know anything about the sector," Peterson said.

Education Department press secretary Liz Hill said individuals hired had long careers before and after their work in

the for-profit sector. "In addition to being highly qualified, they are carefully complying with all ethical requirements and have recused themselves when appropriate," Hill said in a statement.

She said DeVos was focused on expanding education options for students and that the schools' tax status was irrelevant to the quality of their education. "The one question we should be asking is whether or not an education institution is serving students well, not how it filed paperwork with the IRS," Hill said.

But Erika Colon, a 35-year old mother of three in Boston, said the federal government should increase oversight and tighten controls of for-profit schools. Colon, 35, took out about \$15,000 in loans to get a certificate as a medical administrative assistant at one of the Corinthian Colleges schools. She said she received a low-quality education, could not get a job and ended up retraining in a related field at a different school - only then getting hired by a hospital.

"They are just giving students high hopes for nothing and just taking people's money," Colon said.

For-profits had experienced a boom over the past two decades, buoyed by federal student funding and the global financial crisis that left many Americans without jobs and eager to go back to

school to gain new skills and credentials. Enrollment rose from around 230,000 in the early 1990s to a record 2 million in 2010.

The schools recruited aggressively, often targeting nontraditional students—usually older people who had jobs and could only study part time. Schools focused heavily on women and people of color. They also pursued veterans with their millions in GI Bill tuition assistance. A 2017 federal study found that veterans represent a larger share of students at for-profit colleges compared with other schools.

But after graduating, many students struggled to find promised jobs or to transfer credits to other schools, leading to massive student loan defaults. An Education Department watchdog said in a report last month that the "sector continues to present itself as a high-risk area for the department."

With the future uncertain, a growing number of schools are seeking to abandon the for-profit world by converting to nonprofit status. These transformations, which require approvals from state and federal regulators, mean less oversight and relief from a law that bars for-profits from receiving more than 90 percent of their revenue through federal student aid programs.

After five straight years of losing revenue and students, Bridgepoint Education, the San Diego-based owner of two for-profit universities, announced last month that it intends to merge its schools into a single nonprofit called Ashford University. Bridgepoint will become what's known as an online program management company. These are the businesses that design, market and run the virtual programs that colleges offer to students. Pending the necessary approvals, Bridgepoint's first client would be Ashford University.

Nolan Sundrud, a Bridgepoint spokesman, attributed the overhaul to the rapidly evolving environment in which colleges and universities operate.

Consumers should be wary of these proposed conversions, according to Bob Shireman, a former Education Department official during President Barack Obama's first term and a frequent critic of for-profit colleges. Shireman, a senior fellow at the Century Foundation, a progressive Washington think tank, published a report in 2015 that warned of "covert nonprofits" that are free of regulatory burdens but continue to operate as for-profit schools.

A group of Democratic senators has asked the Government Accountability Office to look into the conversions.

AP
U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos sits in with a class at Greater Johnstown Elementary School in Johnstown, Pa., Monday, March 26, 2018.

Overdrive

By G. CHAMBERS WILLIAMS III
FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

Chevrolet's 2018 Suburban looks great with the Z71 Midnight Edition package

Chevrolet's cool-looking Z71 Midnight Edition package is offered on Tahoe and Suburban sport utilities, as well as on the Silverado pickups.

Over the past year, I've tested Silverado 1500 and Tahoe models with the Midnight package, and this past week, I also got to spend time in the Suburban version, which is 20.3 inches longer than the similarly equipped Tahoe.

The Suburban is Chevrolet's original sport utility vehicle, introduced in 1935 and a star of the Chevy lineup ever since — particularly in Texas, where it's among the most-popular motor vehicles ever.

Like its siblings, the Suburban has great road presence, and is quite hard to ignore. That's made even more so by the Midnight Edition's jet-black exterior color, along with blacked wheels and body trim.

The Suburban essentially is the same vehicle as the Tahoe, except at the rear. The cargo compartment is extended, giving the Suburban 39.3 cubic feet of cargo space behind the third-row seat — 24 cubic feet more than the Tahoe, at 15.3 cubic feet.

The Tahoe/Suburban and its siblings received their last full makeover for 2015, and the Midnight Edition package was added a year later. It's also available on the Silverado Crew Cab pickup, which is almost the same vehicle underneath as the Suburban and Tahoe — it just has the cargo area turned into an open truck bed. The Silverado Midnight Edition has much the same look as the Suburban and Tahoe versions, with the same black wheels and trim.

Our Suburban tester was the four-wheel-drive LT trim level, with a base price of \$58,280 (plus \$1,295 freight) before adding the Z71Midnight Edition Package (\$2,285). With the package came the 18-inch black-painted aluminum

wheels, blackwall all-terrain tires, black tubular assist steps, black roof rack, tow hooks, underbody skid plate package, 3.42 rear axle ratio, Autotrac active two-speed transfer case, hill-descent control, front and rear black Chevy bowties, Z71 grille decals, high-capacity air cleaner and Z71 rubber floor mats. The vehicle came with a black interior, too.

Also included on our tester was the Suburban Luxury Package (\$2,860), which added passive entry with remote keyless start, heated second-row seats, third-row 60/40 split bench seat with power fold, power tilt/telescopic steering column, heated steering wheel, rear cross-traffic alert, lane-change alert with side blind-zone alert, power/heated outside mirrors with turn signals, hands-free power liftgate, front and rear park assist, and front fog lights.

We also had a Chevy My-Link audio/navigation system with eight-inch color touch screen (\$495) and a power sunroof (\$995). Dealer-installed wheel locks were an additional \$70.

Our Suburban was powered by a 5.3-liter Ecotec3 V-8 engine with 355 horsepower and 383 foot-pounds of torque. It was paired with a six-speed automatic transmission, although Chevrolet now offers a 10-speed automatic with the optional 6.2-liter V-8.

With three rows of seats, the Suburban can carry up to eight passengers — two up front, and three each in the middle and third rows. But our tester came with power second-row bucket seats (\$795), which replaced the second-row bench seat, and cut the passenger capacity to seven.

The 39.3 cubic-foot cargo area behind the third row is

AP

The 2018 Chevrolet Suburban is an urban family hauler with V-8 power, available four-wheel drive, and a variety of standard optional comfort and safety features.



big enough for luggage and sports gear for a long family trip. With the third row folded, it expands to 76.7 cubic feet; and with middle and rear seats folded, there is 121.7 cubic feet of cargo space.

For 2018, Suburban prices begin at \$50,200 (plus freight) for the base rear-wheel-drive LS model. It's available with four-wheel drive at all trim levels. There is a rotary dial on the dash to the left of the steering column that has setting for 2WD, Automatic, 4WD High or 4WD Low, which is a low-range setting for serious off-road driving.

The Suburban is a very pleasant highway vehicle, with a quiet cabin, smooth ride, and a more-efficient powertrain than the previous generation.

It has a 31-gallon fuel tank, compared with 26 gallons for the Tahoe. EPA ratings for our four-wheel-drive tester were 15 mpg city/22 highway/18 com-

bined. During our week in the Suburban, with about a 60-40 mix of highway-city driving, we averaged just over 18 mpg.

Among standard exterior features are Intellibeam headlights, rain-sensing wipers, a

17-inch steel spare wheel/tire, and trailering equipment.

Inside, the heated leather front bucket seats were quite comfortable, with power adjustments for driver and passenger.

There were power-adjustable pedals, with memory for the driver's seat and the pedals.

An auto-dimming rearview mirror was standard, along with tri-zone automatic cli-

See CHEVROLET'S on Page 20

NUTS & BOLTS

- The package: Full-size, seven- or eight-passenger, five-door, four-wheel-drive, V-8 powered, off-road equipped sport utility vehicle.
- Highlights: The Suburban, last redesigned for 2015, is a sturdy family hauler with lots of power, a smooth ride, and a long list of standard and optional convenience and safety features. It's the long version of the Tahoe, with extra cargo space.
- Negatives: Can get pricey, especially with options.
- Engine: 5.3-liter V-8.
- Transmission: Six-speed automatic.
- Power/torque: 355 HP/383

- foot-pounds.
- Brakes, front/rear: Disc/disc, antilock.
- Length: 224.3 inches.
- Curb weight: 5,808 pounds.
- Cargo capacity: 39.3 cubic feet (behind third seat); 76.7 cubic feet (behind second row, third row folded); 121.7 cubic feet (behind first row; second and third rows folded).
- Electronic stability control: Standard.
- Side air bags: Front seat-mounted, three-row side curtain.
- Towing capacity: 8,000 pounds.
- EPA fuel economy: 15 mpg

- city/22 highway/18 combined.
- Fuel capacity/type: 31 gallons/unleaded regular.
- Base prices: \$60,565 plus \$1,295 freight and options (2018 LT Z71 Midnight Edition).
- Price as tested: \$67,075, including freight and options.
- Major competitors: Ford Expedition Max, Nissan Armada, Lincoln Navigator, Infiniti QX80, GMC Yukon XL, Cadillac Escalade ESV.
- On the Road rating: 9.3 (of a possible 10).
- Prices shown are manufacturer's suggested retail; actual selling price may vary.

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Loving Memory

Josepha King Camacho

March 8, 1960-April 18, 2017

"Those we love don't go away. They walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near. So loved, so missed, so very dear."

We, the family, humbly invite our relatives and friends to join us in prayer as we commemorate the passing of our beloved †Josepha unto eternal life.

Mass of intention and Holy Rosary after the mass is being offered at Santa Soledad Church beginning Tuesday, April 10, 2018 and ending on Tuesday, April 17, 2018. Except on Sunday, April 15, 2018, mass will be offered at 8:30am at Santa Soledad Church. On Wednesday, April 18, 2018, mass of intention will be offered at 6pm at the Holy Rosary Chapel in Dandan (San Vicente Parish).

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Un Dankulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Jess, Children and Family

Life & Style

'A Quiet Place' roars at box office with \$50M debut

NEW YORK (AP)—John Krasinski's "A Quiet Place" made a thunderous debut at the box office, opening with \$50 million in ticket sales and rumbling to the year's second-best weekend after "Black Panther," according to studio estimates Sunday.

The Paramount Pictures thriller far exceeded expectations to land one of the top opening weekends for a horror release. It marks an unlikely breakthrough for Krasinski, the former "Office" star many associate more with inter-office romance and deadpan expressions than silent cinematic frights. Krasinski's third directing effort, which stars himself and wife Emily Blunt is about a family in a future dystopia populated by violent creatures with extremely acute hearing.

But it was far from the only success story on the weekend, which also saw Universal's R-rated comedy "Blockers" open solidly with \$21.4 million, Steven Spielberg's virtual-reality adventure "Ready Player One" dip only 40 percent with \$25.1 million in its second weekend and the period docudrama "Chappaquiddick" beat expectations with a debut of \$6.2 million. In limited release, Wes Anderson's "Isle of Dogs," Lynne Ramsay's "You Were Never Really Here" and Andrew Haigh's "Lean on Pete" all did well, too.

For one weekend, at least, just about everything Hollywood could throw at moviegoers worked. The weekend was up 35.3 percent from last year.

But nothing approached the runaway success of "A Quiet Place." Hollywood had fore-

cast closer to \$30 million for the film, which cost just \$17 million to make. Yet "A Quiet Place" rode strong buzz from its SXSW premiere in March, good reviews (97 percent fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) and moviegoers' continuing thirst for horror.

"We always knew we had something special from the first screenings. But you don't get to a number like this without breaking free of the genre. I think this is about great storytelling," said Kyle Davies, head of domestic distribution for Paramount, who heaped praise on Krasinski. "We're looking forward to what else he has up his sleeve."

"A Quiet Place" is also a badly needed hit for Paramount, which has struggled mightily at the box office in recent years while its ownership has sometimes been in limbo. Earlier this week, CBS Corp. submitted a bid to acquire Viacom Inc., Paramount's parent company.

Though greenlit under the previous leadership, "A Quiet Place" is the first major success under Jim Gianopulos, who took over as studio head a year ago. The opening is Paramount's biggest since 2016's "Star Trek Beyond" and its best non-franchise opening since 2013's "World War Z."

"Blockers" also heralds a filmmaking breakthrough aided by an enthusiastic response from SXSW audiences. The film, which cost about \$21 million to make, is the directorial debut of Kay Cannon, a writer whose credits include "30 Rock" and "Pitch Perfect." "Blockers," starring Leslie Mann, John Cena and



AP
Emily Blunt and director and actor John Krasinski pose for photographers upon their arrival for the UK premiere screening of A Quiet Place in central London, Thursday, April 5, 2018.

Kennedy scandal, opened with \$6.2 million in 1,560 theaters. The film, starring Jason Clarke as Kennedy, was acquired by Byron Allen's Entertainment Studios at last fall's Toronto International Film Festival. Originally planned for an awards season release, the move to spring seemed to give "Chappaquiddick" a better chance to stand out.

In its third weekend, Fox Searchlight's "Isle of Dogs" grossed \$4.6 million in 554 theaters. LD Entertainment's "The Miracle Season," about an inspirational season for a girls' high-school volleyball team, opened with \$4.1 million.

With one of the best per-theater performances of the year, Amazon's "You Were Never Really Here," starring Joaquin Phoenix, opened with \$129,911 in three theaters. A24's "Lean on Pete," with Charlie Plummer, debuted with \$50,118 on four screens.

"Everyone kind of won this weekend," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for comScore. "This is the kind of weekend that Hollywood should try to recreate over and over again. The diversity of the lineup and the originality of the films drove huge numbers of moviegoers to the multiplex."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers also are included. Final three-day domestic figures will be released Monday.

Ike Barinholtz as parents trying to prevent their daughters from losing their virginity, shrugged off a recent slump for comedies in theaters.

"Kay Cannon knocked it out of the park," said Jim Orr, distribution head for Universal, who credited Cannon with inverting the "double standards" of the teen sex comedy. "We could not be more pleased."

Despite the competition, Warner Bros.' "Ready Player One" held well, bringing its domestic total to \$96.9 million. But it's fared even better overseas, where Spielberg's latest has already grossed \$294.4 million. It's done espe-

cially well in China, where the film has made \$161.3 million in two weeks.

Continuing ticket sales also pushed Ryan Coogler's "Black Panther" further into the record books. The Marvel blockbuster now ranks third all-time domestically with \$665.4 million, trailing only "Avatar" and "Star Wars: The Force Awakens." Over the weekend, "Black Panther" passed 1997's "Titanic," which grossed \$659.4 million, though accounting for inflation would put it above \$1 billion.

John Curran's "Chappaquiddick," about the 1969 Ted

1. "A Quiet Place," \$50 million (\$21 million international).
2. "Ready Player One," \$25.1 million (\$81.7 million international).
3. "Blockers," \$21.4 million (\$3.2 million international).
4. "Black Panther," \$8.4 million (\$4.5 million international).
5. "I Can Only Imagine," \$8.4 million.
6. "Tyler Perry's Acrimony," \$8.1 million.
7. "Chappaquiddick," \$6.2 million.
8. "Sherlock Gnomes," \$5.6 million (\$2.7 million international).
9. "Pacific Rim Uprising," \$4.9 million (\$12.4 million international).
10. "Isle of Dogs," \$4.6 million (\$1.1 million international).

- Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore:
1. "Ready Player One," \$81.7 million.
 2. "A Quiet Place," \$21 million.
 3. "Peter Rabbit," \$19.2 million.
 4. "Pacific Rim Uprising," \$12.4 million.
 5. "Hindi Medium," \$11.7 million.
 6. "Tomb Raider," \$4.9 million.
 7. "Gonjiam: Haunted Asylum," \$4.9 million.
 8. "What a Man Wants," \$4.7 million.
 9. "Baaghi 2," \$4.6 million.
 10. "Black Panther," \$4.5 million.

'Roseanne' spurs new look at blue-collar, conservative fare

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The instant-hit status of "Roseanne" is triggering the enduring Hollywood impulse to copycat success.

Even with series pilots nearing completion for the 2018-19 TV season, producers are eagerly pitching revivals of sitcoms that, like "Roseanne," had their day 20 or 30 years ago, according to an industry insider. There are networks and streaming services trying to figure out how to create projects that similarly resonate with viewers, said veteran movie and TV screenwriter Lionel Chetwynd.

The ABC sitcom is part of a still-expanding reboot trend that's brought TV back to the future and includes revamped versions of "Will & Grace," "One Day at a Time" and "The X-Files," and the up-

coming "Murphy Brown."

That doesn't mean viewers should prepare for a wave of newcomers aping "Roseanne," about a working-class family whose matriarch is a supporter of President Donald Trump - as is star and producer Roseanne Barr. Timing aside, there's the challenge of deciphering and recreating a show's appeal, especially one led by a brassy personality like Barr and the strong viewpoint she brings to her work.

Some outlets are trying. Chetwynd, an Oscar and Emmy nominee who counts himself among Hollywood's rare political conservatives, said he received queries from cable channels and streaming networks about developing blue-collar series after Trump's election and again when "Roseanne" debuted

March 27 with exceptional ratings. Initial skepticism about whether viewers would welcome such fare "is now diminished significantly," he said.

Broadcast networks aren't likely buyers at this point. They're getting close to deciding on next season's lineups, with schedules to be presented to advertisers in May.

Even if there's interest down the road, skepticism exists about how much the back-and-forth between Barr's character and her anti-Trump sister, the most partisan element so far, is an attraction. It's certainly made the show stand out among carefully apolitical series and other programs that thrive on skewering the president and his policies, including late-night talk shows and "Saturday Night Live."

CHEVROLET'S

From Page 19

mate control, universal garage/gate opener, and Bose premium audio.

There was plenty of power from the 5.3-liter engine, and with the four-wheel drive, the Suburban can tow trailers weighing up to 8,000 pounds.

To help boost fuel economy, the engine has technologies such as direct fuel injection, continuously variable valve timing and an advanced combustion system.

Among other suspension and mechanical features are a coil-over-shock front suspension, five-link/coil-spring rear suspension, a wide rear track, electric power steering, and standard automatic-locking rear differential.

Included on all models is a four-wheel antilock disc-brake system featuring the GM Du-

ralife brake rotors, designed to last twice as long as conventional rotors.

For connectivity, the Suburban has a 4G LTE Hot Spot (built-in Wi-Fi) that's active when the ignition is on, allowing everyone in the vehicle to connect to the Web. Our vehicle also had GM's OnStar system and SiriusXM satellite radio.

We had a 12-volt DC and two USB ports in the cubby in front where there is a small open cubby perfect for portable devices; there is also a nifty hidden compartment behind the audio-nav touch screen, opened by a touch of a button below the screen, with a USB port inside. It's perfect for hiding away your smartphone. There were two USB ports, an auxiliary input and another 12-volt outlet inside the center console, which also doubled as an armrest for the

driver and front passenger.

In the center console are dual cupholders. Middle-row passengers had a cupholder and bottle holder in each door, while third-row passengers had two cupholders in the tops of the wheel arches.

There were seatback pockets on the front seats, accessible to the middle row, and there were also air conditioning controls, a 115-volt AC outlet, and a 12-volt outlet for the rear passengers.

Safety features include front and rear automatic braking, which uses radar and ultrasonic sensors to help avoid low-speed collisions; GM's Safety Alert driver's seat; and a backup-camera system.

With \$7,500 in options and the freight charge added to the base price, the total sticker price for our 2018 Suburban LT Z71 Midnight Edition four-wheel drive was \$67,075.

Stormy Daniels renews push for Trump's answers under oath

WASHINGTON (AP)—A porn actress who says she had an affair with Donald Trump renewed an effort Sunday to get the president to answer her attorney's questions under oath.

An attorney for Stormy Daniels filed the motion in federal court in Los Angeles. Michael Avenatti is seeking a jury trial and wants sworn testimony from Trump and his personal lawyer, Michael Cohen about a \$130,000 payment made to Daniels days before the 2016 presidential election as part of a

nondisclosure agreement she is seeking to invalidate.

Trump answered questions about Daniels for the first time last week, saying he had no knowledge of the payment made by Cohen and adding that he didn't know where Cohen had gotten the money. The White House has consistently said Trump denies the affair and Cohen has held that he made the payment out of his



Daniels

own pocket, without involvement from the Trump Organization or the Trump campaign.

Cohen did not immediately respond to a request seeking comment Sunday.

Avenatti filed a similar motion over a week ago, which a judge deemed premature. He refiled after Trump asked a federal judge to order private arbitration in the case. Trump and Cohen filed papers last week ask-

ing a judge to rule that the case must be heard by an arbitrator instead of a jury. Avenatti opposes private arbitration.

In the filing, Avenatti says he wants to question Trump and Cohen for "no more than two hours." He says the depositions are needed to establish if Trump knew about the settlement agreement and if he "truly did not know about the \$130,000 payment." He also asks if Trump was involved in any effort to "silence" Daniels.

Daniels, whose legal name is Stephanie Clifford, said in a recent interview with CBS' "60 Minutes" that she was threatened by an unidentified man to keep quiet about the affair. Avenatti tweeted a photo Sunday that he said showed Daniels sitting with a forensic sketch artist to develop an image of the person she says threatened her in a Las Vegas parking lot in 2011 when she was with her infant daughter.

That interview prompted a lawyer for Cohen to demand

that Daniels publicly apologize to his client for suggesting Cohen was involved in her intimidation. Daniels responded by filing a revised federal lawsuit accusing Cohen of defamation.

Avenatti did not say Sunday when the photograph had been taken, or when a sketch may be released.

If this legal move is successful, this would be the first deposition of a sitting president since Bill Clinton in 1998 had to answer questions about his conduct with women.

Opening statements set in Bill Cosby's sex assault retrial

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP)—With opening statements in Bill Cosby's sexual assault retrial set for Monday, prosecutors have lined up a parade of accusers to make the case that the man revered as "America's Dad" lived a double life as one of Hollywood's biggest predators.

Cosby's retrial likely won't be anything like his first one. He's fighting back with a new, high-profile lawyer and an aggressive strategy: attacking Andrea Constand as a greedy liar and casting the other women testifying as bandwagon accusers looking for a share of the

spotlight.

"You've seen previews and coming attractions, but things have changed," said professor Laurie Levenson of Loyola Law School in Los Angeles.

Cosby's first trial last spring ended in a cliffhanger, with jurors unable to reach a unanimous verdict after five days of tense deliberations on charges that the man who made millions of viewers laugh as wise and understanding Dr. Cliff Huxtable on "The Cosby Show" drugged and molested Constand at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004. The

80-year-old comedian, who has said the sexual contact was consensual, faces three counts of aggravated indecent assault, each punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

His retrial is taking place in a radically changed and potentially more hostile environment. The #MeToo movement caught fire four months after the first trial, raising awareness of sexual misconduct as it toppled Harvey Weinstein, Sen. Al Franken, Matt Lauer and other powerful men.

Nearly every potential juror questioned for the case this time

knew about #MeToo.

Kristen Houser of the National Sexual Violence Resource Center said that could help prosecutors overcome the skepticism some jurors had last time about Constand's yearlong wait to report her allegations to the police.

"The #MeToo movement is amplifying what experts have been saying for decades: People are ashamed, they're confused, they can't believe somebody they trust would hurt them, and then they worry that others won't believe them," Houser said.

Jimmy Kimmel tries to tone down feud with Sean Hannity

NEW YORK (AP)—ABC late-night comic Jimmy Kimmel is trying to de-escalate a feud with Fox News host Sean Hannity that began over a joke about first lady Melania Trump's accent.

Kimmel said in a Twitter post made Sunday that his exchanges with Hannity were fun but he didn't want to add to the "vitriol" of their spat, which included Hannity calling Kimmel a "sick, twisted, creepy, perverted weirdo" during his Fox show on Friday.

Kimmel said such animosity is "harmful to our country"

and he wanted to apologize "to those who took offense."

He also said President Donald Trump's wife had enough to worry about "without being used as a prop to increase TV ratings."

On ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live" on April 2, Kimmel produced the first lady's reading of a children's book at the White House Easter egg hunt. He mocked the accent of the first lady, who was born in Slovenia.

"Dees and dat," Kimmel repeated, with a laugh.

Hannity, cable television's most fervent supporter of the

Republican president, took exception, and he and Kimmel exchanged barbs through the week.

Hannity's initial attack on Kimmel, calling him an "ass clown," was enthusiastically countered by Kimmel, who said Hannity was the "whole ass circus."

"Game on," Hannity said on Friday.

He rolled a series of Kimmel clips, mostly from the comedian's days as a co-host of Comedy Central's "The Man Show," that featured segments showing Kimmel with an ex-

aggerated fake erection, asking women to find something hidden in his pants and going up to random women in the street asking if they wanted to have sex with him.

Kimmel thanked Hannity for the trip down memory lane but said the idea that Hannity would call anyone a pervert while he was "slobbering over" Donald Trump is, "to quote a fella you love very much, 'sad.'" Trump boasted on a 2005 "Access Hollywood" tape about fame enabling him to grope and try to have sex with women, and he later apologized.

Post office named for Merle Haggard in California hometown



This April 10, 2012, file photo shows the late Merle Haggard, left, viewing an exhibit on the Bakersfield sound at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in Nashville, Tenn. **AP**

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. (AP)—About 300 people turned out in Bakersfield, California, to celebrate the naming of a post office for Merle Haggard in his hometown.

The late country music legend's sister and widow were among those at a Friday ceremony near downtown honoring Haggard, who helped create the twangy "Bakersfield Sound."

The event fell on the two-year anniversary of Haggard's death—and what would have

been his 81st birthday.

Haggard rose from poverty and prison to international fame through his songs about outlaws, underdogs and an abiding sense of national pride. His hits include "Okie From Muskogee" and "Sing Me Back Home."

Norm Hamlet, who played in Haggard's band for nearly a half-century, told the Bakersfield Californian newspaper that the singer would've been humbled by the honor.

Couple separates after acting class causes domestic drama

DEAR ABBY: When I was 70, I started taking drama classes twice a week (I still do). My wife was against it and insisted that because none of our friends or relatives were doing it, neither should I. As a result, I suggested we live apart. I bought a small apartment and live alone. We see each other regularly, go to the cinema, the theater, visiting friends, vacation, etc.

Every now and then she raises the topic again, saying she feels "betrayed, offended, abandoned" and suggests we stop seeing each other for two to three days "so she can recover from the pain I inflict on her."

I don't think I am doing anything wrong here. I'm not cheating on her, and she

knows that and doesn't accuse me explicitly. I think she is jealous and distrustful because the women taking the classes are beautiful and not because of anything I have done. What do you think? -- FRUSTRATED IN BULGARIA

DEAR FRUSTRATED: What I think is, not having heard your wife's side of it from her, your insight may be correct. However, before accepting the guilt trip she is laying on you, remember that since you moved out she hasn't invited you to move back in.

DEAR ABBY: My older brother and I are eight years apart. I am in my mid-20s, and he is in his early 30s. Our personalities and outlook on

life are completely opposite. We have different fathers but grew up in the same household, so naturally, we went to the same outings together until he was a teenager and we took different paths.

Looking at him now, I see he is an angry and burdened person compared to his early teenage years, even his 20s. He has always had two serious interests, science and poetry. Although he loved them while he attended school, he no longer has the same fire in his belly. In fact, there's no pep in his step about anything, just frustration. How can I lift his spirits without pressuring him? -- LIGHTING THE FIRE

DEAR LIGHTING: Could it be your brother's behavior is simply that of

a man who has reached his 30s, has matured and is more of a realist than he was in his early teens? Consider telling him you have noticed his personality has changed from when he was younger -- that he seems angry, burdened and frustrated. Then LISTEN. He may or may not be depressed. If, after hearing him out, you are still concerned, suggest he do something about what's bothering him by talking with a counselor, preferably one who is licensed.

DEAR ABBY: I just found out my married son had an affair, and the woman may be pregnant. If she is, do we acknowledge the baby as our grandchild? And what's the right thing to do if my son and his wife stay together?

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



-- COMPLICATED IN THE NORTH

of your grandchild's life, it is your privilege to do so.

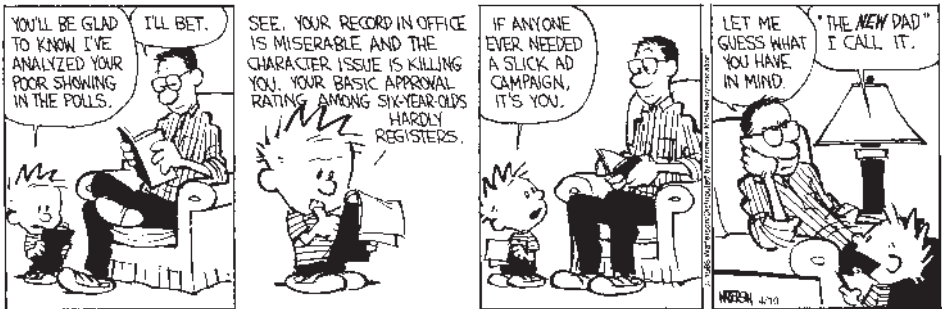
DEAR COMPLICATED: If a paternity test proves the baby is your son's, he will have a legal obligation to support the child until he or she is no longer a minor. If your son and his wife remain together -- and many couples do -- his wife may prefer he have as little to do with the mother and child as possible. However, if you would like to be part

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



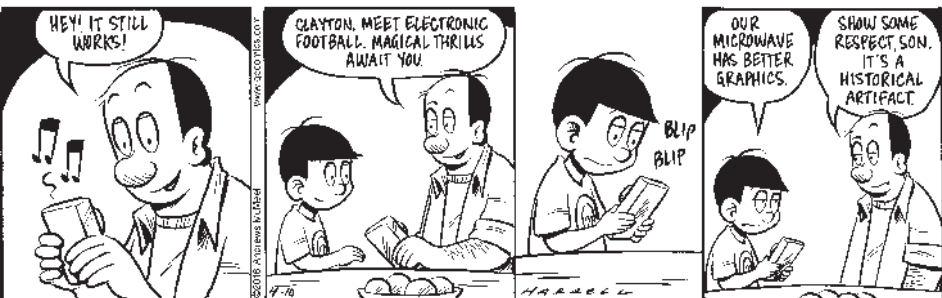
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



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The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Tag sale words

5 British rule of India

8 Bark

12 Grand

13 Sch. URL ender

14 Botanical angle

15 Elvis hit

17 Actress Ward

18 "Mayday!"

19 Port city of Poland

21 Memento

24 Thick chunk

25 Final notice

26 Spicy stadium frank

30 Fib

31 Frontiersman Daniel

32 GI's address

33 Marine, informally

35 Notion

36 Timid

37 Rep

38 Detroit record label

DOWN

41 Hosp. area

42 Actress Lena

43 Pack leader, perhaps

48 Laptop connection

49 Ms. Farrow

50 Lymph

1 Sports fig.

ACROSS

2 HBO competitor

3 Debtor's note

4 Twilight time

5 Cincinnati team

6 Hubbub

7 Multi-tasking, maybe

8 Sushi condiment

9 They can take a yoke

10 Fixes a squeak

11 Criticism

16 Mafia boss

20 Valley

21 Snitched

22 Theater award

23 Chicken

24 Trembled

26 Spy's moniker

27 Miami — County

28 Store sign

29 Capricorn

31 Huffed and puffed

34 "Leave that to me!"

35 Big lizard

37 German cry

38 Cuts the grass

39 Hodgepodge

40 Squabble

41 Apple tablet

44 Like Abner

45 Homer's cry

46 Poetic tribute

47 Tiara sparkler

Solution time: 22 mins.

M	E	L	G	R	A	S	S	C	O	B
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Yesterday's answer 4-10

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alex Pettyfer, 28; Haley Joel Osment, 30; Shay Mitchell, 31; Dion Phaneuf, 33.

Happy Birthday: Using force won't help you get your way this year. Lean on your expertise and knowledge to create what you want to see unfold. How you handle others will be the key factor in how much you accomplish. Don't leave any detail incomplete or take impulsive action when dealing with superiors or your peers. Focus on what is feasible, not the impossible. Your numbers are 4, 12, 20, 28, 36, 41, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll be taken advantage of if you are too accommodating or willing to give or do more than the people you consider to be equals. Don't take on responsibilities that don't belong to you. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Lend a helping hand only because you want to or feel you have something worthwhile to contribute. Don't let anyone browbeat you into taking on responsibilities you don't want. Make physical activity, health and personal growth your priorities. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A change at work or with the way you approach a project will make a positive difference to your direction or the outcome of what you are trying to accomplish. Don't be afraid to ask for favors or to make suggestions. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Protect against ill health. Don't take chances; avoid places where you are more likely to come in contact with germs. Make important re-

lationships a priority, and you will achieve greater understanding as well as personal stability. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Change may tempt you, but preparation will be necessary if you want things to unfold smoothly. Don't let impulse cause you to take on too much or to overlook something important. Use your intelligence and be open to suggestions. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Interact with people who have something to offer. Networking will give you a unique perspective on what's available to you and how you should consider moving forward. Updating your image as well as your attitude will lead to favorable responses. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Emotional baggage coupled with excessive behavior is a recipe for disaster. Think matters through before making promises or taking action that will upset someone close to you. Problems with an older relative or domestic issues should be handled with compassion. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Situations will get blown out of proportion and indulgent tendencies will take over if you aren't disciplined and willing to meet demands being made somewhere in the middle. Give and take will be the ticket to success and warding off discord. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Network and you will build alliances with your peers that will encourage greater progress. Mixing excellence with strength and courage is a good approach to getting what you want, but don't take on too much. Set realistic expectations. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Emotional problems will develop if you don't take care of matters that can influence how or where you live. Keeping up with what's going on around you and the latest economic trends will help you make better choices. ★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Question your current look and what you have done to keep up with the times. A thoughtful approach to updating your wardrobe or attitude will encourage good results. Use your intelligence along with your will to change. ★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): An emotional incident will arise if you let someone from your past come back into your life. Don't forget what's happened. You may be able to forgive, but forgetting will make it difficult to begin again. Embrace the future, not the past. ★★

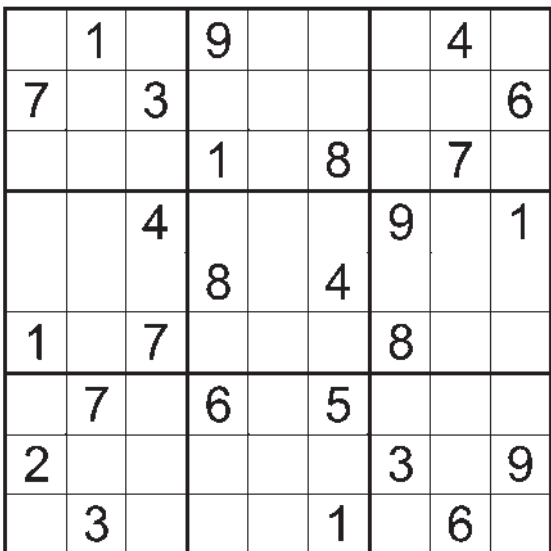
Birthday Baby: You are creative, protective and aggressive. You are investigative and strong-willed.

(To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)cvt

SUDOKU

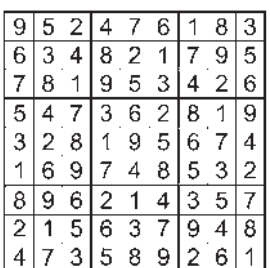
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★ 4/10
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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TIPS: Solution: 9 letters



©2012 Arcs/McVee Syndication www.wonderword.com 4/10

Alcove, Army, Attach, Beds, Cabins, Camps, Chest, Converts, Curtain, Double, Drawers, Flat, Floorspace, Frame, Futon, Height, Kids, Ladder, Loft, Lower, L-shape, Mattress, Maximize Space, Metal, Naps, Narrow, Pair, Pillars, Platform, Poles, Rail, Safety, Seat, Share, Ship, Sides, Sofa, Softwood, Spring, Stacked, Standard, Sturdy, Tall, Top, Train, Upper, Wire

Yesterday's Answer: Baseball
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By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER
ov. Ralph DLG Torres said the 'AI needs every bit of avail- sustain the health

CUC: Gulick, DHS advice on CW-1 ca
By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
fergie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER
The Commonwealth Utilities described as "mind bog- Corp. U.S. Citizenship and Im-

Yankees weather rain, Royals comeback
PAGE 25
SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Torres: Earthjustice lawsuit affects military's plan
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Reed tops Masters, earns first major title

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)—After the final putt disappeared into the cup, Rickie Fowler waited outside the scoring room at Augusta National.

Once again, he was congratulating someone else on winning their first major championship.

For Fowler, the wait goes on.

“I was ready to go win,” he said. “Unfortunately, I was one shot short.”

This has become a familiar lament for Fowler, who now lugs around the unwanted baggage as the best player without a title in one of golf’s biggest events.

He had his best chance yet on a stirring Sunday at the Masters, making six birdies over the final 11 holes — including an 8-footer at the 72nd hole that finished off a 14-under 274.

It’s a score that would’ve been good enough to win most years.

But Patrick Reed had one less stroke on his card, claiming the green jacket by sinking a short but testy par putt at No. 18.

“Glad I at least made the last one to make him earn it,” Fowler said.

Jordan Spieth did his part, too, to make Reed earn it.

The 24-year-old Texan turned in one of the greatest closing rounds in Masters history, shooting an 8-under 64 that pushed him into the mix after he started the day with a daunting nine-shot deficit.

Spieth thought it would be a nice, stress-free day out on the course.

Instead, he horned his way into one of the greatest duels this place has ever seen, actually



AP
Patrick Reed celebrates after winning the Masters golf tournament Sunday, April 8, 2018, in Augusta, Ga.

last year.

Fowler couldn’t resist a little jab at his good friend.

“Solo second feels and sounds better than tied for second, so it was nice to edge out Jordan,” Fowler said with

a smile.

But Spieth, only 24, already has three major titles on his resume.

The 29-year-old Fowler is still chasing the first.

He’s certainly had plenty of opportunities, most notably finishing in the top five of all four majors in 2014. Fowler now has eight top-five finishes in 31 majors over his career.

Tigers makes late comeback at Augusta

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)—Tiger Woods nearly aced a hole and made his lone eagle of the week.

The four-time Masters champion somewhat returned to form at Augusta National. It was just a few days too late to be more than an afterthought at golf’s first major.

Woods closed with a flurry, recording a 3-under 69 in the final round at the Masters. He finished 1 over for the tournament, 16 strokes behind winner Patrick Reed and in a four-way tie for 32nd.

It was far from what the 42-year-old Woods wanted, but he left the hallowed grounds feeling better about his game than he did a few days before and more encouraged than his last few trips to Augusta National.

Woods last played the event in 2015. He returned the last two years for the champions’ dinner, but didn’t get on the course. The hiatus left him feeling nostalgic during his walk to the 18th green.

“This is one of the greatest walks in all of golf,” Woods said afterward. “And I had missed it for the last couple of years. I hadn’t been able to play in it, so now I’m glad I’m competing in this tournament. And to face the challenges out there, I missed it. I really did. I missed playing out here. I missed competing against these guys. Such a great event. Best (event) in all of our sport.”

Woods started the weekend more than a dozen shots out of the lead and knew he would need something special to happen to get back in contention. It never happened. Never even came close, either.

But there were some glimpses Sunday in his traditional red shirt.

Woods had two birdies and an eagle on the back and looked like he would get to even par for the event. He lamented his iron play for the fourth straight day and loathed two three-putts, including one for bogey on No. 18.

grabbing a share of the lead by sinking a 35-foot birdie putt at the 16th hole.

“Are you kidding me,” Spieth mouthed to his caddie.

Reed, playing in the final group, answered with a birdie at the 14th.

Spieth’s hopes ended at the 18th hole after his tee shot clipped a tree, falling to the



ground just 177 yards away. He pulled off two dazzling shots to give himself a shot at saving par. But an 8-foot putt slid by the edge of hole—his only bogey of the day.

“I was pretty gutted at the finish,” Spieth said. “I hit a tee shot that wasn’t that bad. It just caught the last little branch of

that tree. Obviously, I want to go back to that tee shot right now. But it was a phenomenal day.”

Spieth sure knows his way around Augusta National, where he won in 2015, finished second two other times, and now has a third-place showing on his resume. His worst performance in five appearances was a tie for 11th



ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—

Shohei Ohtani retired the Oakland Athletics’ first 19 batters and yielded one hit over seven shutout innings in his home pitching debut, leading the Los Angeles Angels to a 6-1 victory Sunday.

Marcus Semien’s clean one-out single to left broke up Ohtani’s bid for a perfect game.

Ohtani (2-0) struck out the side twice and finished with 12 strikeouts in all. He won his pitching debut in Oakland last weekend with six strong innings, then homered in three consecutive games in Anaheim between starts in his attempt to become the first regular two-way player in decades.

Mike Trout and Ryan Schimpf homered, and Albert Pujols had an RBI double in the Angels’ seventh win in nine games.

Mets 6, Nationals 5, 12 innings

In Washington, Yoenis Cespedes scored Juan Lagares with a broken-bat single in the 12th inning to help New York complete a three-game sweep.

Adrian Gonzalez hit a grand

Ohtani takes perfect-game bid into 7th

slam for his first homer as a Met, and Asdrubal Cabrera hit a solo home run. New York earned its first three-game sweep of the Nationals since Sept. 7-9, 2015.

Marlins 6, Phillies 3

In Philadelphia, Jake Arrieta (0-1) lasted just four innings in his Philadelphia debut. The 2015 NL Cy Young Award winner joined the Phillies, signing a \$75 million, three-year deal.

Brian Anderson hit a tiebreaking two-run double in a three-run eighth off Luis Garcia (0-1) and Adam Morgan. Odrisamer Despaigne (2-0) pitched two hitless innings, and Brad Ziegler got three outs for his first save.

Diamondbacks 4, Cardinals 1

In St. Louis, Arizona manager Torey Lovullo set off a benches-clearing incident by maintaining eight-time All-Star catcher Yadier Molina was earning unwarranted strike

calls with his pitch framing.

Lovullo was ejected by plate umpire Tim Timmons in the second inning. Lovullo was arguing a called third strike on A.J. Pollock and got into a shouting match with Molina.

Red Sox 8, Rays 7

In Boston, the Red Sox’s Xander Bogaerts left with a left ankle injury in the seventh inning. The shortstop got hurt while sliding dugout into the Tampa Bay dugout and will have tests Monday.

Andrew Benintendi hit a tiebreaking RBI double in Boston’s wild six-run eighth inning, and the Red Sox won their eighth straight.

Orioles 8, Yankees 7

In New York, Brad Brach escaped his own bases-loaded, no-out jam in the 12th inning, getting his second save when Aaron Judge grounded into a rare pitcher-to-catcher-to-third double play and striking out Giancarlo Stanton.

Baltimore overcame a 5-0, first-inning deficit to take three of four in New York.

Indians 3, Royals 1

In Cleveland, Yan Gomes hit a tiebreaking two-run homer off Brandon Maurer (0-2) in the ninth inning.

The game-time temperature was 32 degrees, the lowest in the 25-year history of the ballpark.

Cody Allen (1-0) worked the ninth for the win.

Tigers 1, White Sox 0

In Chicago, Mike Fiers combined with four relievers on a three-hitter that completed a three-game sweep.

On an afternoon with a first-pitch temperature of 36 degrees and a 10 mph wind blowing straight in, the teams combined for just five hits—all singles—and none after the third inning.

Astros 4, Padres 1

In Houston, Max Stassi hit a three-run homer off Tyson Ross (1-1), Charlie Morton (2-

0) allowed four hits and three walks for one unearned run in six innings.

The 52-degree temperature with the open roof for the first pitch was the coolest in the ballpark’s history, beating 57 degrees, on April 8, 2007.

Cubs 3, Brewers 0

In Milwaukee, Jose Quintana (1-1) three-hit ball over six innings, Ben Zobrist homered and Chicago finished 5-4 on its longest opening trip since going 7-5 in 1899.

Brandon Morrow pitched a perfect ninth for his second save.

Pirates 5, Reds 0

In Pittsburgh, Jameson Taillon (2-0) pitched a one-hitter for his first shutout in 45 major league starts, allowing Tyler Mahle’s single to center with one out in the third. He struck out seven and walked two.

Taillon added an RBI single off Mahle (1-1) in the second, Gregory Polanco hit a two-run homer and Corey Dickerson a

solo drive.

Blue Jays 7, Rangers 4

In Arlington, Steve Pearce homered on the first pitch of the game from Cole Hamels (1-2), and Kendrys Morales added a three-run shot in the first inning.

Jaime Garcia (1-0) won while facing Texas for the first time in 176 big league starts.

Dodgers 2, Giants 1

In San Francisco, Cody Bellinger overcame food poisoning to score the go-ahead run on Kyle Farmer’s pinch-hit double in the 10th inning off Pierce Johnson (0-1).

Josh Fields (1-0) pitched a scoreless ninth for the win.

Braves 4, Rockies 0

In Denver, Sean Newcomb (1-1) allowed three hits in the first inning before retiring the next 16 batters.

Nick Markakis and Dansby Swanson hit back-to-back homers off Kyle Freeland (0-2).

Colorado scored only six runs in the series and was shut out at home for the first time since last May 27.

Utah clinches, Philly locks up home-court



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Quin Snyder wasn't too concerned about the pressure of a win-and-in situation for his Utah Jazz.

"I'd rather have that pressure than the alternative," the coach said.

Now, he and the rest of the Jazz can rest easy.

Donovan Mitchell scored 28 points to help Utah clinch a playoff berth with a 112-97 win over the Los Angeles Lakers on Sunday.

Utah is the fourth team in the crowded Western Conference to lock up a post-season spot, with five teams still in the running for the other four positions before the regular season ends Wednesday. It's Utah's second straight playoff appearance, even after star small forward Gordon Hayward left last offseason for a free agent deal with Boston.

"It's a great feeling to have that," Mitchell said. "But at the same time, we got two more games left and want to stay where we're at."

Mitchell also had nine rebounds and eight assists, and Joe Ingles had 22 points on 9-of-12 shooting along with 10 assists. Jae Crowder added 18 points off the bench.

Josh Hart had 25 points for Los Angeles, which has lost six of eight. Julius Randle had 17 points and seven rebounds.



Utah Jazz guard Ricky Rubio, left, reaches in against Los Angeles Lakers forward Travis Wear as the latter tried to shoot during the first half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, April 8, 2018, in Los Angeles.

Tuesday night and have the Cleveland Cavaliers (49-31) lose their final two games against the New York Knicks.

Hawks 112, Celtics 106

In Boston, Taurean Prince scored 33 points, and the Hawks rallied for the road win.

Isaiah Taylor and Dewayne Dedmon scored nine straight points for the Hawks after they trailed 103-101 with 2 minutes remaining. With the No. 2 spot in the Eastern Conference already locked up, Celtics coach Brad Stevens left Al Horford, Jayson Tatum, Jaylen Brown and Terry Rozier on the bench for the entire fourth quarter.

Warriors 117, Suns 100

In Phoenix, Klay Thompson's shooting touch seems playoff-ready.

The Golden State guard scored 22 of his 34 points in the first quarter and the Warriors beat Phoenix for the 15th consecutive time in the final home game of the Suns' awful season.

"It was good to get into a good rhythm, especially with a game left in the season," Thompson said. "You want to have some great momentum going into this playoff stretch."

Grizzlies 130, Pistons 117

In Memphis, MarShon Brooks scored 25 points, Dillon Brooks added 22 and Memphis beat Detroit to snap a four-game losing streak.

Marc Gasol and Kobi Simmons added 20 points apiece for Memphis. Gasol also had nine rebounds and nine assists. Anthony Tolliver led the Pistons with 19 points, and Luke Kennard added 18.

76ers 109, Mavericks 97

In Philadelphia, 76ers coach Brett Brown acknowledged that after he told his players and the media before the season began that the goal was to make the playoffs, it "wasn't well received" by many in the cautious front office.

Turns out, Brown had the pulse of The Process. Not only are the Sixers headed to the postseason, they're poised to make some noise.

JJ Redick scored 18 points,

and the surging 76ers matched a franchise record with their 14th consecutive victory over the Dallas Mavericks.

Ben Simmons added 16 points, seven rebounds and nine assists, and Robert Covington had 15 points and 10 rebounds. Two years after going 10-72, the Sixers (50-30) clinched home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs and secured their first 50-win season since Allen Iverson's 2000-01 team, which lost in the Finals.

"In our profession, Brett has become a legend," said Dallas coach Rick Carlisle, whose team has begun its own rebuild. "He's just been unshakable as a leader and as a guy that's always pushed his teams to always play at their highest capacity in terms of energy and effort."

"And as this thing has gone along, in the fourth or fifth year, they've built up the guys that they like and they've

gotten rid of a lot of other guys that weren't quite good enough. They've added a few veterans and they've done a great job with the draft."

The only other time the Sixers won 14 straight in a single season, Dr. J and Moses Malone delivered Philadelphia its last NBA title in 1983.

Raptors 112, Magic 101

In Toronto, C.J. Miles scored 22 points, OG Anunoby had a career-high 21 for Toronto.

Serge Ibaka scored 13 points, and Jakob Poeltl and Delon Wright each had 12. The Raptors closed out their home schedule by extending their franchise records for wins (58) and home wins (34).

After clinching the top spot in the Eastern Conference on Friday night with a win over Indiana, the Raptors gave guard DeMar DeRozan and center Jonas Valanciunas the night off. Toronto will rest players again Monday night at Detroit, then

return to full strength Wednesday night for the regular-season finale at Miami.

Aaron Gordon scored 16 points, and Mario Hezonja had 14 for Orlando. The Magic lost for the eighth time in 11 games.

Pacers 123, Hornets 117

In Charlotte, Domantas Sabonis scored a career-high 30 points, Victor Oladipo had 27 points on 12-of-15 shooting and the Pacers beat the Hornets to keep alive their slim hopes of winning the Central Division title.

Lance Stephenson, a former Hornet, had 10 rebounds, 10 assists and eight points for the Pacers, who have won seven of their last nine games.

Rookie Malik Monk led the Hornets with 22 points in their final home game of the season.

For Indiana (48-33) to win the Central and earn home-court advantage for the first round of the NBA playoffs, it needs to beat Charlotte on

Patriots connected to almost all top QB options



The New England Patriots obtained the 23rd overall pick from the Los Angeles Rams and that opened up the floodgates for speculation of what the team is planning to do in the opening round of the draft.

Will they trade up? Will they trade down? Will they find Nate Solder's replacement or draft a first round wide receiver or bolster their defensive front seven?

All of those are possible, but it seems like the most common theory is that Bill Belichick and the Patriots are interested in drafting Tom Brady's heir in the upcoming draft and that they'll make the selection early.

Nothing is for certain in the world of Belichick and there's a great chance that there simply won't be a quarterback worth selecting in the first round- or the

team won't be able to trade to a high enough pick.

The top picks in the draft belong to the Cleveland Browns (current QB: Tyrod Taylor), New York Giants (Eli Manning), New York Jets (Nope.), Browns (Again.), and the Denver Broncos (Case Keenum). There's a slim chance that only the Jets draft a quarterback in the top five.

There's also a very real chance that three or four quarterbacks will already be off the board, especially if the Browns are interested in trading down to a quarterback-needy team like the Buffalo Bills or Arizona Cardinals.

But if the draft board aligns with the Patriots best interests at quarterback, then Belichick and company will be ready to navigate the draft board- and there are plenty of reports connecting New England to the top prospects.

Neymar teases 'big' announcement

PARIS—Something big between Neymar and former Barcelona teammate Lionel Messi is apparently about to happen.

That is according to Paris Saint-Germain star Neymar, who left Camp Nou last August.

Neymar—recovering from a fractured foot ahead of the World Cup in Brazil—posted a cryptic message to Twitter on Sunday.

In a tweet including a photo of the pair, Neymar wrote: "When my friend and I #LeoMessi get together big things happen! I'm telling you guys more! Stay tuned!"

It remains to be seen if the

message involves the duo reuniting on the pitch, refers to commercial matters away from the field, or even relates to something else entirely.

PSG already have plenty of firepower—with Neymar, Kylian Mbappe and Edinson Cavani leading the line—but the French giants could use Messi, especially in Europe.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner scored a hat-trick in Barca's 3-1 LaLiga victory over Leganes, taking his tally to 39 goals across all competitions this season.

Meanwhile, Vahid Halilhodzic has reportedly been dismissed as Japan's head coach following two disappointing international friendly matches and with the World Cup opening in just over two months.

Japan's Kyodo news agency cites football association president Kozo Tashima in announcing the move on Monday. The JFA was expected to hold a news conference to announce its plans.

Kyodo says a likely successor could be JFA technical director Akira Nishino, a for-

mer coach at J-League club Gamba Osaka.

Japan salvaged a 1-1 draw on the last kick of the game in a friendly last month against Mali, and days later lost 2-1 to Ukraine. The Japanese will face Colombia, Senegal and Poland in group play in the World Cup.

Halilhodzic was hired in March 2015 after leading Algeria to the knockout stage of the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

Japan, South Korea and Australia—traditionally, Asia's most powerful teams—struggled in World Cup qualifying before advancing.



FIFA WORLD CUP
RUSSIA 2018

May 1 deadline for Micro Games delegates

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Sports Association has set a May 1 deadline for submission of documents of athletes, coaches, and officials participating in the 2018 Micronesian Games in Yap.

NMSA president Michael White, in last week's monthly meeting, said local sports

federations must submit the names and the business page of passports of their delegates.

"I would also be needing separate copies of passport size photos. It will be easier to register this time since the organizers will use the sporting pulse system for its registration," White said. "Those who competed in previous Games and were previously accredited are no longer required to submit

photos and copies of their passports," added White, who will be leaving for Yap on May 4 to attend a meeting for the Micronesian Games.

The CNMI is expected to send an over 130-strong delegation to the Micronesian Games that will run from July 15 to 27. The Commonwealth will be competing in basketball (men's and women's), beach and in-



door volleyball (men's and women's), canoe (men's and women's), baseball, athletics, spearfishing, and weightlifting (men's and women's).

White is also reminding sports federations to submit their monthly reports to track the progress of their training before the quadrennial sporting event.

"So far, basketball has been consistent with its monthly re-

port. We want to send athletes who are competitive and not tourists. We want to see if they are practicing and training for the Games," said White. "As much as possible, we want to have the best athletes that would best represent and are ready to compete for the CNMI."

Weightlifting was the first to name its athletes to the Micro Games with 2017 Pacific Mini Games bronze medalist

Angel San Nicolas leading the squad. Also on the team are Joey Tudela and newcomer Rodrigo Ada for the men's division and Bonny Cruz and Antonette Labausa in the women's side.

Mariana Islands Basketball Federation official Elias Rangamar, who will be coaching the men's and women's teams, is also set to name his final roster sometime next week.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Amari's IT&E Destroyers increased their lead in the Budweiser Open 8-Ball Tuesday League after beating the 9 Eleven Wildboyz, 8-5, in last week's games held in separate bars on the island.

The Destroyers were ahead by only three (62-29) against the second-running Wildboyz (59-32) before the April 3 matches and upped their record to 70-34 compared to the latter's 64-40 slate.

Nolan Cultura led the Destroyers' victory as he swept all the four games he played in the Singles and Partners 8-Ball. He won three Singles and joined Rico Montano in beating the Wildboyz duo of Randy Sablan and Bill Cepeda in the Partners 8-Ball.

Shane Quitugua, Pat Cepeda, Ray Matsunaga, and Sablan scored the five wins for the Wildboyz.

In other results, the Brannon's Docomo Hustlers squeezed out an 8-7 decision

Destroyers gain cushion in Tuesday League



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Amari's IT&E Destroyers are the current leaders in the Budweiser Saipan Billiards Association Open 8-Ball Tuesday League after last week's games.

over the 9 Eleven Marianas Water with Joey Lucido and Senen Pangelinan securing the win when they bested Roel Barreto and Jerry Soriano.

The 9 Eleven Str8 Black

Ball—composed of Mervin Sahagun, Tata Hamoy, Rodel Dela Cruz, and Rey Hermogenes—destroyed the Brannon's 670 Builders, 12-1. Tom Bernardo and Chris Imbo

gave the Builders the lone win when they defeated Dela Cruz and Hermogenes in the Partners 8-Ball event.

The Hustlers and Marianas Water join the Wildboyz for a

tie for second to fourth place as they hold similar 64-40 slates. The Str8 Black Ball (63-41), Beach Beer Masters Touch (58-46), and the Builders (33-71) rounded out the Tuesday League standings.

In the Thursday League, the 9 Eleven 8 Black Ball (60-31), Amari's IT&E Homeboyz (55-36), and 9 Eleven MJD Warriors (50-41) are the Top 3 teams, followed by the 9 Eleven Titans (48-43), Sands

Team SCS (42-49), Amari's Intensity 8 and Brannon's Jam Shooters (40-51), and VFW Assassins (29-62).

The Black Ball Builders (33-71) stayed on top of the eight-team field despite a 5-8 loss to the Homeboyz last April 5.

In other results in the division, the Intensity 8 edged the Assassins, 7-6; the Titans downed Team SCS, 8-5; and the Warriors defeated the Jam Shooters, 9-4.

TAN

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Corps Drive just past the Governor's Complex in Adelup.

"The course was tougher than Saipan because there were hills whereas Saipan is all flat. The weather was also more humid with very little wind so I was dripping in sweat and right after I finished, rain started pouring so I'm sure the rain affected the

runners who were still on the course. The toughest part was probably the hills, because we had to run up a few heading back," said Tan, who finished second overall in the half marathon event in last month's Saipan Marathon.

"I am pretty happy with my time, but my goal is to break my Saipan half marathon time (1:50:48), since that is my personal best as of now. I won't be running any half marathon

any time soon, as I'm now going to focus on track and run the mid distance track events," added Tan, who will participate in the 2018 McDonald's/PSS All Schools Track and Field Championships next month.

Meanwhile, Tania's mom, Lydia, also did the half marathon event in Guam and clocked in at 2:02:49 for fifth place out of the 50 runners who were entered in the 50 to

59 age group.

Other Saipan runners who competed in Guam last weekend were Rommel Buenaflor (marathon/4:07:17); Florence Antonio (half marathon/2:26:56); husband and wife Brad (half marathon/2:54:19) and Kathy Ruszala (half marathon/2:28:21); Ador Dimaano (10K/1:12:04); Sakiko Eda (runner-up marathon/4:14:24); and Taro Kubo (marathon/3:59:53).

KANOA

From Page 28

fifth place in the final team rankings. It will challenge No. 4 TanHoldings (3-1-2) in a play-off match this Saturday with the winner facing Shirley's in the semifinals next week.

Shirley's played two straight matches last weekend, meeting Paire first and drawing a pair of goals from Jerlyn Castillo to nail its third victory. Kristanna Lim and Esther Jones added one goal each. Castillo also had a brace in another shutout win for Shirley's against the eliminated Matansa (0-1-5), while eight of her teammates hit the board, too.

In other results last Saturday, MP United (4-0-2) secured the No. 3 spot going into the playoffs after blanking Paire, 3-0. Francesca Bucalig, Audrey Castro, and Stellalou McCallion scored for MP United in the 48th, 55th, and 64th minute, respectively.

MP United and the No. 6 Paire will cross path anew this Saturday as they battle for a semis berth and the right to take on the top-ranked Kanoa in the Final Four.

CO-ED U13

Kanoa 2, TanHoldings 1

Kanoa remained on top of the rankings with two playing weekends left in the compe-

tition following a close victory against TanHoldings at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

Ian Karl Maniago made the go-ahead goal in the 64th minute, while Kanoa (6-2-0) got an own goal in the seventh minute. TanHoldings, which is still at No. 3 with its 4-1-3 slate, drew its lone goal from Taro Goto in the 51st minute.

MP United 10, Shirley's 0

Not far behind Kanoa at second place is MP United, which improved its mark to 5-2-1 after clobbering Shirley's.

Rintaro Miyawaki and David Myers Jr. delivered the big blows for MP United after re-

cording four goals apiece. Jason Quimzon and Richard Steele contributed one goal each in MP United's demolition of the hapless Shirley's (1-0-7).

Matansa 4, Paire 2

Lolobeyong Benito registered a hat trick to lift Matansa to a close win over Paire.

Benito posted two of his goals in the second half to help Matansa overhaul a 1-2 deficit at the break. He also tallied Matansa's first goal in the opening frame, while Jon Villagomez nailed the pair for Paire before the losing squad went cold in the second half. Maui Johnson earned the other goal for Matansa in the final half.

OVER

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als are set for April 12 and 19.

Middle school students—U13 and U15—will have qualifiers in the 60m, 100m 200m, runs, javelin throw, and long jump on April 11 and 400m, 800m, 1500m, and 3000m runs, and discus throw, shot put, and high jump) on April 18. High school students will have the following events on April 12: 60m, 100m, and 200m runs, and javelin throw, and long jump; and the 400m, 800m, 1500m, and 3000m runs, and discus throw, shot put, and high jump on April 19.

Schools are allowed to enter as many as three students in each event, while there is no limit in the middle (800m and 1500m) and long distance (3000m) runs. All schools will

automatically qualify for the relay events.

Saipan Community School, Gregorio T. Camacho, William S. Reyes, Agape Christian School, Grace Christian Academy, Oleai, Kagman, Koblerville, Saipan International School, San Vicente, Garapan, Mt. Carme School, Tinian, Sinapalo, Green Meadows School, Northern Marianas International School, and Seventh-day Adventist School are entered in the elementary division, while Chacha, SCS, MBA, SIS, ACS, Francisco M. Sablan, Hopwood, Dandan, Tanapag, GCA, SDA, NMIS, and MCS are competing in middle school. Marianas High School leads the high school competitors and is joined by Kagman, Saipan Southern, ACS, MBA, SIS, MCS, and GCA.

Green Meadow School Family Fun Walk

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Participants in the Green Meadow School Family Fun Walk pose for a group photo at the Kili Beach last Saturday at the conclusion of the five-kilometer run. GMS' middle school students, parents, and teachers organized the fun walk.



Green Meadow School students hold the event banner before heading out to the course.



Green Meadow School principal Milagros Songcuan, second right, leads a group of students and parents as they cruise along Beach Road.



Green Meadow School students and their teacher leisurely walk along Beach Road.



Green Meadow School students show some zumba moves.



Green Meadow School students follow the lead from their parents.



Green Meadow School students and their parents and teachers take a cue from their zumba instructor.



Green Meadow School students and their parents perform stretching drills before doing zumba.

Reed tops
Masters, earns
first major title

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Saipan Tribune Sports



Utah clinches,
Philly locks up
home-court

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28 TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2018

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



JON PEREZ

Saipan International School's Beatrice Gross competes in the girls U9 division's long jump during the first day of qualifiers for the 15th Annual McDonald's/PSS All Schools Track and Field Championships yesterday at Oleai Sports Complex track oval.

Over 100 join All Schools qualifiers

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The series of qualifiers for the 15th Annual McDonald's/PSS All Schools Track and Field Championships kicked off yesterday with more than 100 public and private elementary school students competing in four events at the Oleai Sports Complex's track oval.

Under 7, U9, and U11 students in the girls and boys divisions lined up as they took turns in racing in the 60m, 100m, and 200m runs and participating in the long jump. Competitions in the same events will continue today.

Students in the three age

groups were divided into several heats with the boys U7, U9, and U11 participants running at the oval, while the girls were competing in the long jump qualifiers. The six fastest runners in each heat will advance to the 15th Annual McDonald's/PSS All Schools Track and Field Championships set from May 9 to 12, while the last two remaining spots are reserved for Rota and Tinian students.

After the first two days of the qualifiers for elementary students, competition will resume on April 16 and 17 and events lined up are the 400m,



800m, and 1500m runs, and softball throw.

While the final week of the qualifiers for elementary schools on Saipan is taking place, NMA development officer Elias Rangamar and Public School System athletics program director Nick Gross will be on Rota and Tinian next week to hold similar trials for the different age groups.

Meanwhile, competing next in the qualifiers are middle school students, who will be at the track on April 11 and 18, while the high school tri-

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Kanoa, Shirley's near finals rematch

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kanoa Football Club and Shirley's FC are on course for another finals collision as they took the outright semis berths in the girls U16 division of the 2018 NMIFA Spring Youth League after the elimination round concluded last Saturday at the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Field.

Kanoa shut down Southern United, 6-0, to finish the round-robin elims on top of the team standings with its 5-1-0 win-draw-loss record. Shirley's

placed second with its 4-2-0 slate as it closed out the preliminaries with back-to-back victories—against Matansa (11-1) and Paire (4-0).

Shirley's and Kanoa, which will have to wait for the results of the playoff games this Saturday to determine their semis opponents, duelled for

the girls U15's fall season championship last year with the latter prevailing in a shootout, 3-1, to end the former's five-season reign in



the division.

Paulynn Grace Joyce starred in Kanoa's win over Southern United after firing four goals, while Abigail Decena and

Sue Ann Huevos chipped in one each.

Southern United, with the loss, fell to a 2-0-4 mark for

See KANOA on Page 26

Tan leads Saipan finishers in Guam Marathon



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Taro Kubo, Tania Tan, Lydia Tan, Sakiko Eda, Rommel Buenaflor, and Florence Antonio pose for a photo after completing their respective races in last Sunday's United Airlines Guam Marathon.

two-hour mark, as runner-up Katelee McCormic was way behind after timing in at 2:35:30. Kirsten Riley, Lily Sheedy, and Siennah Spriggs rounded out the Top 5 after checking in at 2:1:12, 2:56:45, and 3:09:59, respectively.

The 16-year-old runner managed to rule her division despite having a tougher time on the course, which started and ended at the Gov. Joseph F. Flores Memorial Park (Ypao Beach) in Tumon with a turnaround point at Marine

See TAN on Page 26

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan International School's Tania Tan blew past her foes in the 21K race in last Sunday's United Airlines Guam Marathon.



Tan finished the half marathon course in 1:54:56 to top the women's 14 to 19 age group competition and lead Saipan finishers in the annual event. She was the lone runner in her division to complete the half marathon under the



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kanoa Football Club's Paulynn Joyce tries to save the ball from going out during an earlier game in the girls U16 division of the 2018 NMIFA Spring Youth League at the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Field.